

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

For

Harvard University Construction Projects



Developed By:

Gary D. Alpert, Ph.D.

Introduction

The purpose of this protocol is to provide guidelines for pest control at Harvard University construction projects including new construction, major renovations and building demolitions.

- Construction contractors are advised on how to obtain the services of a Harvard preferred pest control vendor.
- Pest control vendors are required to follow safe, effective and economical pest control as outlined.
- Building project management and administrative staff are advised of communications protocols for dealing with routine and emergency pest problems.
- The Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) department specifies acceptable integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices for the control of pests.

EPA regulates pesticides to protect the public health and the environment. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts further regulates the use of pesticides through its own laws. These laws supersede federal regulations and are generally more restrictive. In addition, the Inspectional Services department of Boston and Cambridge require all construction companies to contract for pest control services during demolition of existing structures.

Integrated Pest Management

Harvard University is committed to providing safe, effective pest control for all of its construction projects. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a pest control strategy managed by Environmental Health & Safety, using a “least-chemical means” approach. When warranted, least toxic pesticides are used in a manner that minimizes exposure to humans and the environment. The use of least-chemical means in conjunction with other non-chemical measures is known as integrated pest management (IPM). This program includes regular inspections construction sites and specifications requiring pest control vendors to follow best management practices. A protocol for reporting and responding to pest control emergencies is communicated to all parties. EH&S has an entomologist on staff to identify insects and troubleshoot any pest situation you may encounter. In addition, EH&S maintains a web site at http://www.uos.harvard.edu/ehs/pest_control/ with useful pest control information.

Responsibilities

Construction Companies

- Report sightings of pests to Harvard Project Managers and the pest control vendor as soon as possible. Visual sightings of pests as well pest droppings should be reported. Be as specific as possible regarding time and precise location of pest or pests.
- Do not purchase and use rodenticides obtained from retail outlets or other sources. The use of rodenticides will create odor problems when the rodents die behind walls or public relations problems when the rodents die in plain view of the general public.
- Contact Gary Alpert from EH&S (617-495-1983) for additional assistance if pest problems are not satisfactorily resolved.
- Keep food wastes in rodent tight containers.
- Insure that the building exterior perimeter is rodent proof upon completion of construction.
- Obtain the services of a pest control vendor approved by EH&S.

Pest Control Vendors

- All pest control technicians are required to read and adhere to this document when controlling pests at Harvard University.
- Pest control technicians must wear vendor identification and announce their presence before beginning to control pests.
- Anticoagulant rodenticides are not allowed at construction sites. The use of bait stations to hold snap traps and glue boards is preferred.
- The Project Manager and EH&S must approve any deviations from this protocol in advance.
- The pest control technician will respond within 24 hours to all requests for emergency service. All efforts will be made for same day service.
- Report chronic or unusual pest activity to EH&S and to the Project Manager.
- Immediately report conditions that promote the presence of pests to the Project Manager.
- Work with the contractor to insure that food wastes are not contributing to rodent infestations.

Project Managers

- Advise construction contractors to use a pest control vendor approved by EH&S.
- Report any unusual or chronic pest problems to EH&S.

Environmental Health & Safety

- The Entomologist for Harvard University, Gary D. Alpert, is responsible for providing an annual review of this document and for ensuring that all pest control technicians comply with the practices set forth in this document.
- If the Project Manager believes the pest problem is not being resolved or wants additional pest control service, request for assistance should be made to EH&S.
- EH&S will provide pest identification, emergency service, and will assist in solving chronic pest infestations.
- EH&S will provide a list of preferred pest control vendors.
- EH&S can sign city demolition permits that verify a pest control program is in place.

Best Management Practices for Pest Control

Pest Monitor Traps.

- Pest Monitor Traps. All pest monitor traps must be labeled with a date and placed in a location on record. The record can be either a map or else documented on a service report form. When traps are no longer effective, they will be replaced as needed.
- Insect and rodent survey traps will be placed in potential pest harborage locations and checked at least monthly for the presence of pests. Rodent snap traps or glue boards can be effectively placed inside these stations.

Record Keeping

- Service Report Forms. These forms document the report of a pest problem, actions taken to correct the problem and findings relevant to the source of the infestation. A pest control technician will fill out a Service Report Form on each visit to the facility. All service report forms will be kept in a logbook on location.
- Sign-in and Sign-out Form. This form will be kept in a logbook on location. A logbook, clearly identified, will be kept in a central location and will be used to document the pest control program
- MSDS / Chemicals. All pesticides and traps authorized for use at Harvard University will have a sample label and a material data safety sheet on file in a logbook on location

Disposal of pests.

- All rodents and insects will be sealed in a closed container and disposed of in an outside enclosed trash container. If requested, rodents will be sacrificed for laboratory analysis.

Pesticide Applications

- Only pesticides pre-approved by the Environmental Health and Safety Office or appropriate designee will be authorized for use

Storage of Pesticides

- No pesticides belonging to outside pest control vendors will be stored on location.
- In-house personnel will not use pesticides unless licensed as a commercial pest control technician by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Pest Control Strategy

- Control pests during demolition, renovation or construction phase. Control of pests includes insects, mice, rats, birds, bats, and other mammals.
- Prior to building occupancy, conduct an intensive trapping program to remove any rodents or other animals that may have been accidentally sealed inside the building.
- Conduct a building perimeter inspection to verify that there is no entryway for rodents. This includes inspecting doorway thresholds, pipe penetrations and any other potential location for pest entry.
- Conduct a building interior inspection to verify that plumbing fixtures are caulked, and if there is research laboratory, animal facility or food preparation areas, make sure that these sites are carefully examined for potential pest problems.