

## Five Questions to consider prior to any pest control treatment:

**#1. Is the pest control company licensed to perform the pest control services I need?**

Our website ([www.sb.state.az.us](http://www.sb.state.az.us)) contains a list of all licensed companies and identifies the category of the respective license (e.g.. General pest, termite, weed control etc...). Our database of licensed companies is in real-time and can be accessed 24-hours a day.

**#2. Does the pest control company or applicator have any complaints against them?**

Our website ([www.sb.state.az.us](http://www.sb.state.az.us)) contains the complaint history of companies and applicators. It can be accessed 24-hours a day.

**#3. Is the company performing a complete inspection of the property prior to providing pest control services?**

Pesticides are not the only solution! Oftentimes, a thorough inspection may reveal that the best way to eliminate a pest problem is to apply exclusionary or sanitation techniques. This method is called Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM does allow for the use of pesticides, but only when a pesticide is the *best (or only)* solution for eliminating a pest issue.

**#4. Is the facility occupied by those who suffer from asthma or some other respiratory illnesses?**

If this is the case, why not ask the pest control applicator to use baits, rather than a conventional liquid treatment.

If pesticide "baits" are not practical and IPM methods cannot be used, you may want to request a copy of the material safety data sheet (MSDS) and the specimen label prior to the pesticide application. The MSDS contains necessary information for which an emergency personnel would need to treat for an exposure to pesticides.

**#5. Can I perform the pest control services myself, rather than hiring a licensed company?**

It depends. There are some laws that prohibit pesticide services by non-licensed individuals. For example, A.R.S. 32-2307 and 32-2325(1)(2) prohibit pesticide applications at schools and childcare facilities without specific licenses.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Arizona Office of Pest Management  
1688 W. Adams St.  
Phoenix AZ 85007  
Phone: (800) 223-0618  
Fax: (602)255-1281

# Pesticide Use in Schools and Public Health Facilities



## What the OPM can do for YOU

The Arizona Office of Pest Management (OPM) is the state agency charged with regulating all non - agricultural pest control within Arizona. The OPM licenses pest control businesses and applicators.

Because elderly adults and young children have greater risk to pesticide exposure than any other group in society, the OPM under a cooperative agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), has created an outreach program to address pesticides used in hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and licensed child care centers. **This program serves to minimize risks to you and those within your care.**

The OPM inspector will conduct a brief interview of the individual in charge of pesticide and antimicrobial use for your facility.

The inspector will assist you in determining if any pesticide or antimicrobial product used by your staff or the pest control company you hire is registered for use by the U.S. EPA and that the pest services or records you receive comply with state and federal guidelines.

## Pest Control in Hospitals and Nursing Homes

Pesticide exposure can occur anywhere pesticides are applied. This includes hospitals and nursing homes where the protection of one's health is priority. While it is essential to control pests that may carry disease within these environments, it is also imperative that the pesticide applicator provide the necessary documentation required by State Law, which may aid in proper treatment in the event of an exposure. The OPM inspector will review your documentation and may even ask to monitor the actual pesticide application.



### DO YOU KNOW

**if the pesticides or antimicrobial products used at your facility registered with the E.P.A.?**

**The OPM can help.**

## Pest Control in Schools and Child Care Centers

Children are at a greater risk for pesticide exposure because their immune system is still developing and therefore provide less natural protection than those of an adult.

Children's behaviors, such as playing on floors or lawns where pesticides are commonly applied, or placing objects in their mouths, increases their chance of exposure to pesticides.

A.R.S. 32-2307 requires all schools and licensed childcare facilities to post a notification a *minimum* of 72 hours in advance of a pesticide application. The law also requires that pesticides at such facilities can only be applied by licensed professionals. The OPM can ensure the posting requirements, pesticide records and the actual pesticide application are all within compliance of State and Federal Law.

