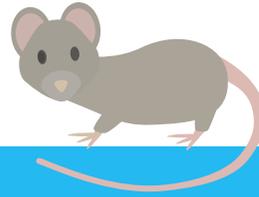


Pest Control At Home

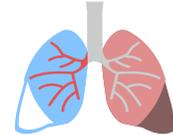
CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CENTER at the
MOUNT SINAI INSTITUTE FOR EXPOSOMIC RESEARCH



Some household pest control products can be harmful to children. Practice safer methods to keep your home healthy and pest-free.

A pest-free home is a healthier home

Pests like rodents and cockroaches release substances that can worsen asthma and other respiratory problems.



Some pest control products can be harmful to children



Children are exposed to more pesticides because they're closer to the ground, breathe more rapidly, and put their hands in their mouths. Children's rapidly developing organ systems are most sensitive to harm from pesticide exposures.



Many pesticides that target insects are toxic to the brain and linked to cognitive and behavior problems.



Studies have shown a link between household pesticide use during pregnancy and risk of childhood leukemia and brain tumors.



Accidental exposure to high levels of pesticides can be fatal. More than half of reported pesticide poisonings occur in children.



Pesticide exposure is associated with increased risk and worsen symptoms of wheeze and asthma.

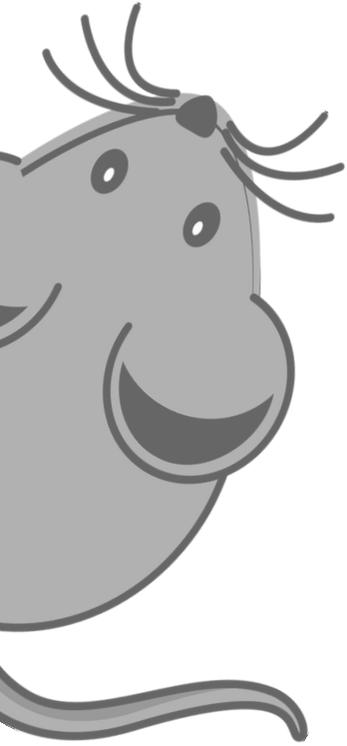


Some pesticides can interfere with hormones in the body which can disrupt the development of reproductive and nervous systems.

You can control pests safely in your home.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an effective approach to solving pest problems while minimizing risks to children and others.

Using IPM means you'll look at environmental factors that affect the pest and its ability to thrive. IPM methods include:



Monitor

Find ways that pests may get in before they become a problem.



Prevent Access

Seal cracks with caulk especially where pipes and wires come through the wall.



Remove Shelter

Reduce clutter where pests can easily hide, such as old newspapers.



Remove Water

Fix water leaks and leaky faucets, wipe up spills, and remove pets' water dishes at night.



Remove Food

Store food in plastic or glass containers with tight-fitting lids. Use a trash can with a tight-fitting lid and empty it regularly. Clean thoroughly, especially under appliances where food may collect.

If pesticides are needed, use them safely and correctly.

Read the label. Choose least toxic products labeled "Caution" with an EPA registration number. Avoid those labeled "Danger" and those not registered with the EPA.

Don't apply when children are present and store safely out of their reach.

Choose bait traps and place them out of reach of children and pets. Avoid sprays, foggers, and "bombs".

If sprays are necessary, apply only to targeted areas.

Hire only licensed professional applicators.