

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Are Chemicals the Only Way to Treat Pests?

When most of us hear the words 'Pest Control' we think of one thing ... Chemicals. But are chemicals the only way to treat pest problems? Not necessarily. To be successful in the management of pests requires an understanding of the target pest ecology, lifestyle and habits. It is the aim of the professional pest manager to undertake a program of **Integrated Pest Management** in the treatment of all pest problems.



What is Integrated Pest Management?



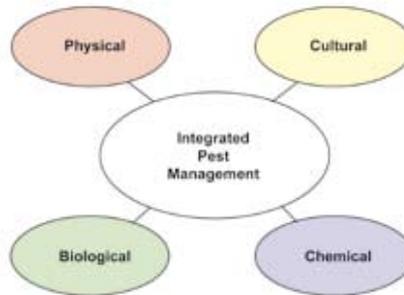
Integrated Pest Management (or IPM) relies on a combination of techniques and methods to get maximum impact with a focus on the minimum use of and exposure to chemicals. The four main methods involved in an IPM system are **physical controls**, **cultural controls**, **biological controls** and **chemical controls**. It is not always practical or possible to use all these methods in every situation, but each case needs to be analysed to determine the best management program.

Physical control methods involve such things as fly screens; physical means of proofing for birds (such as netting, and other deterrents), blocking access for pests like possums & rodents. It can also include physical means of pest detection, such as trapping. In many cases physical controls can be implemented at the point where the pests will harbour and breed and if a breeding site can be eliminated, often a pest problem can be solved.

Physical controls can sometimes be a more effective and appropriate method in gaining long term control over a particular pest infestation.

Cultural control methods focus more on the sanitation and hygiene practices that will affect pest populations. By implementing strategies such as improving ventilation to deter attack by termites or improving hygiene and sanitation measures to reduce the risk of cockroach infestation much can be achieved. Cultural controls play a big part in nuisance fly control where drainage areas need to be maintained in order to achieve good control.

Overall this strategy is vital for any pest management program to succeed.



Biological control methods can include such things as the introduction of parasites or predators to eradicate a particular pest. A good example of this is the use of bacterial agents to eliminate buildup of residues in drains that provide breeding grounds for nuisance pests. This area of pest management is becoming increasingly important in IPM programs.

Chemical control methods involve the application of pesticides as part of the IPM program. While pesticides may be part of the IPM program, application of pesticides should be undertaken judiciously using the appropriate pesticide and means of application to minimize any risk to human, animal or plant life.

How Can Amalgamated Pest Control Help You?

Amalgamated Pest Control is committed to the IPM methodology whether we are treating your home or your workplace. Our systems have provided effective pest management solutions for clients in the food and manufacturing industries, health care (including hospitals and nursing homes), childcare facilities and schools, shopping centres, local government and even highly sensitive areas like museums. Our proven systems is one of the reasons why we are the market leader in Australia. We can also assist with compliance systems such as HACCP and AQIS requirements of the food export industry.



Customised Pest Management Programs



We undertake a full site assessment to determine what methods in the IPM system can be used to achieve the best results with a focus on minimising the amount of pesticides used. For our commercial clients, we sit down with you and determine your exact requirements based on your site pest management needs, external audit requirements, documentation and management reporting requirements. Even when pesticides are to be used, we have designed specialised equipment and application techniques to place the pesticides where the pests breed - and away from you and your pets.

Local Branch:

Where Do I Start?

Contact your local branch of Amalgamated Pest Control today. We can provide you with an obligation free quotation to get your pest management plan up and running.



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