

# LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PEST OF THE MONTH PROGRAM NO. 8.



## GENERAL EXTERIOR SANITATION PROTOCOLS



### INTRODUCTION

Sanitation is a very important aspect of any pest management program. From an integrated pest management standpoint, it is usually unsanitary conditions that provide food, water, and shelter for most pests. Sanitary conditions influence whether pests will be present, can become established, and can sustain themselves. By improving sanitation we can eliminate conducive conditions and thus negatively impact pest populations.

Everyone expects pure, wholesome foods that are prepared, stored, handled, processed, displayed for sale, and served in a clean environment free of pests and other contaminants. Good sanitation practices will help achieve these expectations.

This pest of the month program will address some of the basic principles and practices pertaining to sanitation and how these will help to mitigate pest problems in school environments.

### COMMON PESTS IN, ON, AND AROUND SCHOOLS

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) most frequent and common pests are ants, cockroaches, rats, mice, and pigeons. Why are these animals attracted to school environments? All living things have three basic needs for survival namely food, water, and shelter. If food and water are not available to pests in school environments, they will be forced to go somewhere else. So don't let them eat and don't let them drink. Deprive them of these essential survival resources and you will stress their populations and force them to go elsewhere.

One of the best techniques for keeping pest populations from colonizing an area within a school is to encourage regular removal of waste materials out of buildings. When waste becomes static and does not move, it becomes susceptible to pest infestations. Waste materials in classrooms, offices, and other areas throughout the school should be collected and disposed of daily. Waste materials produced in kitchens and dining areas should be removed twice daily. At the end of any given school day, no waste materials in trash collection containers should remain anywhere within school buildings. Removal to large industrial dumpsters or trash compactors on the exterior of the building is essential.

### EXTERIOR DUMPSTER CARE AND MAINTENANCE

LAUSD has contracted for dumpster and trash hauling services. It is on-site administrators and plant managers responsibility to ensure that trash dumpsters and areas around them are properly maintained and kept in sanitary conditions at all times. Please refer to Office of Environmental Health and Safety Gram No. 02-06 dated November 2002 entitled: **Dumpster sanitation**, for more information on dumpster maintenance. The following points are worth repeating here:

- Try to locate dumpsters away from the entry door of the kitchen/café so as not to attract flies and bring them close to entry points into food preparation areas.

- Dumpster lids should be kept closed at all times except when depositing trash. Missing or inoperable dumpster lids should be reported to Truck Operations at 213 763-1493.
- Always keep trash in securely tied plastic bags so as to deny pests access to it.
- Do not allow trash to spill out of dumpsters and onto the ground below. If for some reason, your facility generates a large amount of trash because of special events, etc., call for a second trash pickup.
- Keep dumpster areas clean, free of debris, and well maintained.

**Your cooperation with the above guidelines will ensure a healthy, safe, and pleasant work environment for students and staff.**

## **MAINTENANCE OF TRASH RECEPTACLES AROUND EXTERIOR FOOD CONSUMPTION AREAS**

At some schools and at certain times of the year, outdoor trash containers around exterior food consumption areas attract honey bees and yellowjacket wasps (black and yellow wasps). The following materials in outdoor trash cans are **extremely attractive to honey bees**:

- Portion pack table syrup (pancake/ waffle syrup)
- Honey dip donut glaze on cinnamon rolls
- Glaze in wrappers of pre-packed cinnamon rolls

These materials are usually served at breakfast.

The solution to honey bee problems in trash cans are:

- **ALWAYS** promptly empty trash cans around the outdoor food consumption areas after breakfast. **DO NOT** allow breakfast trash to remain in trash containers until lunch time. Honey bees learn and remember a rich source of food and they will keep returning to it as well as recruit other bees to come to the same food source.
- Where it is possible to do so, locate all outdoor trash cans around the food consumption areas at least twelve feet away from children. **DO NOT** place trash cans between the lunch tables. This will draw honey bees and wasps too close to the students and increases the probability of stings.

**YELLOWJACKETS** are aggressive black and yellow wasps that often persistently forage for food in trash cans at some schools. The schools most affected are those located in mountainous, riverine, foothill, and canyon areas. The following are some things you can do to help alleviate yellowjacket problems at your school:

- Promptly clean up food spillage in the lunch area.
- Where possible locate trash containers at least 12 feet or further away from the children.
- Promptly empty trash cans after lunch is finished.
- Keep trash containers and areas around them clean and free of food spillage and food debris.
- Where possible use trash cans with push-back lids.

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