

How to Hire an IPM Contractor

A good pest control technician (experienced with IPM) will become your partner in pest control. They will provide effective pest control and provide recommendations for sanitation, maintenance and organization that prevent pest problems in the future.

Before hiring a contractor, take these steps:

- 1.) Call several companies.** Introduce yourself and explain your interest in safer, more effective pest control through Integrated Pest Management. Ask if they offer IPM services?

If they do not offer IPM, consider calling other companies.

- 2.) What is included in your IPM services?**

Services should include: inspection, monitoring, recommendations for preventing pest problems, treating problems with traps or least-toxic pesticides and service reports. The technician must understand that application of pesticides aside from insect and rodent bait require your explicit permission.

*Routine pesticide spraying is **NOT** part of IPM. Spray pesticides should only be used in emergency situations.*

- 3.) Will the technician begin by performing an inspection?**

An initial inspection is an important part of IPM. Be careful of a technician without a flashlight – or one that says they provide IPM, but doesn't thoroughly inspect the facility. They may not be aware of how the environment – inside and outside - contributes to pest problems.

- 4.) Can you describe for me how you would handle a roach problem?**

There are many potential responses to this question. The ideal candidate would express his/her plans to identify the cockroach species and look into sanitation & water issues. (s)he would also determine where the roaches are living and how they are getting inside. The technician would make recommendations for removing food, water and shelter. Finally, they would apply gel bait or containerized bait to eradicate the problem.

Does the company mention pesticide spray? This may not be a good IPM practitioner.

- 5.) Will I receive service reports of your work and written recommendations that I can implement for managing a pest-free facility?**

Service reports and IPM Recommendations will help you prevent pest problems by removing pests' access to food, water, shelter and access to the inside of the building.

- 6.) May I call your other IPM customers for a recommendation?**

Call for recommendations.

- 7.) Use an IPM contract.** If you sign a contract for monthly or quarterly service, be sure the contract calls for IPM. Review 'IPM Contract Specs' or call Safer Pest Control Project for sample contracts.