

Pest-Proofing Before School Break

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Before summer, winter, or spring break, take a moment to pest-proof your workspace.

TEACHING STAFF

1. Take home the snack food in that desk drawer (you know the one!).
2. If you choose to leave food in cupboards during the break—including flour, sugar, cereals, and food-based art supplies—place them in a hard plastic container with a snap-tight lid. Many pests can chew through boxes and plastic freezer bags.
3. Custodians usually ask you to move “stuff” up off the floor to allow for cleaning during breaks. Consider keeping these items up off the floor permanently by installing shelves or bringing in rectangular tables to allow for better cleaning throughout the school year.
4. Clutter clean-out: the price for storing materials is dust and pests. Consider the tradeoff (a cleaner and healthier classroom) as you sort your classroom supplies.

KITCHEN STAFF

1. Take a look in the pantry and eliminate as much corrugated cardboard as possible. This is a great time to request hard plastic bins with snap-tight lids as part of a pest management effort.
2. Remove debris from drains and drain baskets to reduce habitat for drain flies.
3. Place all food in snap-tight containers, in refrigerators, or freezers. If storage space is limited for large bags of grain products, place them on shelves (ideally metal) several feet off the floor.
4. Request to have your floors deep-cleaned during each break using either a pressure washer or a bio-enzymatic cleaner. Drains and hard-to-reach

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