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Pest Problems in Alameda County? Call an IPM Certified Pest Control Professional.

Alameda County Residents encouraged to make informed decisions when choosing a pest service

Buyer beware: when it comes to choosing a pest control operator, making a less-toxic decision just got easier. Numerous pest services in Alameda County are now certified in integrated pest management (IPM) techniques.

The Alameda County Clean Water Program encourages the selection of IPM certified pest control service when hiring a professional for your home, and has just made finding a certified pest service even easier through its newly revamped website, www.baywise.org.

While traditional methods of pest control usually involve only periodic application of pesticides, IPM certified contractors are taught to look for the sources of pests. The IPM certification designation is used to alert residents that their pest control professional will use minimal chemicals, and when needed, those chemicals will have minimal impact on storm water runoff, people, and the surrounding environment. Monitoring use of pesticides is important; since they are specifically formulated to be toxic to bugs, these chemicals can also be hazardous to humans, animals and the environment—particularly local waterways, such as creeks and the Bay.

IPM certification means pest services follow the processes required in integrated pest management which include:

- The pest control operator will first inspect and monitor the property.
- If the pest control service finds a pest problem, it will first eliminate the sources of food, water and shelter that pests need to survive.
- If a pesticide is necessary to eliminate the problem, products will be used in a manner that minimizes risk to people, pets or the environment.
- The resident will be contacted for consent before making a traditional pesticide application.

While the Alameda County Clean Water Program does not endorse any particular pest control operator, the organization does encourage residents to use approved vendors in order to maintain a healthy home environment and prevent pollution into local storm water which can have a detrimental effect on aquatic life in and around the body of water. Two such certification programs are EcoWise and Green Pro. “Residents will reap dual rewards by choosing to use an IPM-certified pest control operator – not only will they ensure they are using a more environmentally friendly process, they will also create a less-toxic home environment for their family and pets and reduce stormwater pollution,” said Sharon Gosselin.

Residents are encouraged to find a certified pest control service near them by visiting www.baywise.org.