

BMP #5: Minimize Pesticide Risks

Pesticides are showing up in our creeks, the Bay, and the sanitary sewer at levels toxic to sensitive organisms. Restaurants and other food handling service facilities contribute to this problem, so it's important you manage pests in ways to minimize environmental risks.

- ▶ Prevent pest problems by storing food in pest-proof containers, keeping things clean and dry, fixing any plumbing leaks, and caulking cracks which allow ants and cockroaches to enter.
- ▶ Apply pesticides, only if necessary, not on a regular schedule.
- ▶ If you apply pesticides, follow all label directions. Don't apply pesticides around floor drains, sinks, or food.
- ▶ For ants, use ant bait with boric acid, hydramethylnon, or arsenic (ants carry the food to the nest, killing the whole colony). Remove bait when the ants are gone or else the bait may attract more ants.
- ▶ When hiring a pesticide applicator, look for someone who practices integrated pest management (IPM). An IPM practitioner will try to solve the problem with the least toxic materials.