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ANNUAL NOTICE OF INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

2025-2026 School Year

This notification is to inform teachers, staff, parents/guardians, and other interested parties of the actions taken by Watershed Public Charter School ("Watershed") to employ Integrated Pest Management ("IPM") in school buildings and grounds.

Structural pests, i.e. insects and rodents, carry diseases, contaminate food and food preparation areas and can cause structural damage thus posing significant problems to people, property, and the environment. Landscape pests, i.e. insects, weeds and diseases, can pose significant risks to students, staff and users of school buildings and grounds. Pesticides can also pose risks through unnecessary exposures. Pest control in the school environment must protect the health and safety of the students and staff, minimize pest damage to structures, personal property, improve the quality of the education environment by avoiding annoyance and disruption of work and learning caused by insects, rodents and other pests.

The IPM program employed by the Baltimore County Public Schools ("BCPS") is a proactive approach to insect, rodent and weed control in school facilities and on school grounds. The IPM program includes routine inspections of school facilities to identify conditions conducive to pest invasion, to ensure early detection of pest presence, and to monitor infestation levels. As a first step in pest control, the IPM approach employs several preventative strategies and alternatives to pesticide application, including employee education, source reduction, inspection and identification of potential problem areas, clutter elimination and improved sanitation. Each approach is monitored and evaluated, and modifications are made, if necessary. Pesticides are used only as a last resort.

Watershed is a BCPS school as well as a charter school; therefore, our situation is unique to other BCPS schools. Watershed does not have a BCPS' Building Operations Supervisor or a grounds foreperson but does have an Operations Manager employed by Watershed Public Charter School, Inc. ("Watershed, Inc."), the non-profit organization overseeing the running of the school. Watershed does not own the school building or grounds and both are shared use with the property owner, St. Gabriel Roman Catholic Church ("St. Gabriel"). St. Gabriel also has an environmental "Green Team" and has actively worked to add rain gardens and native trees on campus. Watershed and St. Gabriel share costs for a landscaping vendor to trim grass and hedges during the growing season; no pesticides are applied to the grounds. St. Gabriel independently manages four other buildings on campus and contracts with their own pest control vendor. According to the lease agreement between St. Gabriel and Watershed, Watershed students and staff use only the areas that Watershed leases.

BCPS' IPM program provides direction and structure for Watershed's IPM program that is tailored to Watershed's unique campus needs and set-up. In addition to BCPS Food and Nutrition employees, Watershed uses various third-party contractors, including, but not limited to: janitorial services, landscaping services, food waste composters, trash and recycling services and junk hauling services to do our part to keep our campus clean and healthy for all.

Watershed is committed to being an environmental steward and as such, to limiting the use of pesticides on-campus. Watershed's mission is to provide an interconnected learning environment, where hands-on exploration and creative expression foster the learning process. Our community promotes rigorous academic achievement, meaningful outdoor experiences and continuous growth for all students. Watershed is a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School and a MAEOE Maryland Green School with a purposeful adherence to environmentally friendly practices throughout the schoolhouse, gardens and grounds. Watershed contracts with a custodial services company for a full-time day porter and part-time evening custodians, 5 days a week. Watershed practices good sanitation and housekeeping practices including daily food composting (using a contracting service to remove compost from closed outdoor bins, weekly), trash-free lunches, twice a week recycling and trash pick-ups, Baltimore County Clean Green 15 campus clean-ups and deep sanitization cleanings during longer school breaks. There are trash grabbers and upcycled plastic bags by the exterior doors, metal containers are used to store food for schoolhouse animals and the school has routine visits from Baltimore County Health Department. A digital work request form is used for staff and teachers to notify Operations Manager about pest sightings. Watershed has a contract with a pest control contractor to do monthly, quarterly and as needed visits; glue boards are used for pests, bait stations are used only in the boiler room and pesticides are not to be used except in emergency situations. In 2024, Watershed received a federal grant that will help seal our building envelope and replace exterior doors. While waiting for the design-build and installation process to proceed, exterior door sweeps have been installed to narrow gaps in doors.

As Watershed is a K-8 educational institution, Watershed follows the more stringent notification rules for elementary schools rather than middle/high school rules. Maryland law requires that parents/guardians of all elementary school children will be notified a minimum of 24 hours prior, or within 24 hours after, or on the next school day for emergency, for interior or exterior pesticide application.

The following is a list of the pesticides and bait stations, by common name, that may be used in BCPS school buildings during the school year. This list may be amended during the year if the need arises, and if authorized and registered by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

- Abamectin B1
- Bromadiolone
- Chlorfenapyr
- Deltamethrin
- Difethialone
- Diphacinone
- Fipronil
- Glyphosate
- Indoxacarb
- Oryzalin
- Phenothrin
- Propoxur

- Pyrethrins
- Pyriproxyfen
- Zinc phosphide

Watershed uses bait stations with difethialone (First Strike, EPA # 7173-258) in the school's boiler room; the boiler room is *not* accessible by students. Watershed also uses glueboards in common areas. Watershed does *not* use pesticides on school gardens or grounds. Copies of safety data sheets and product labels for bait stations and glueboards used at Watershed are maintained in physical form at Watershed as well as in digital files. Persons wishing to review this information should contact Christina Sawyer at 443-809-2100 to arrange an appointment to view IPM information.