

ASSESS YOUR ASSETS

- Review your collections, determine where your weak points are for IPM, and begin there; collections need much more active monitoring and protection than non-collections spaces.
- Determine how much you can spend on your IPM Policy and practices; time and money-wise.
 - <http://www.domyownpestcontrol.com/> sells multiple types of pest detection and mitigation tools for reasonable prices
 - Collections spaces are your most important and vulnerable areas to protect, if time and funding are limited, concentrate your efforts there
- Reach out to fellow institutions for ideas, and make use of free online resources
 - <http://museumpests.net/> is a great online tool for developing and implementing IPM at your museum.

DEVELOP POLICY AND PRACTICES

- Reading through the policies and procedures of other institutions can be helpful in producing your own policy.
 - *Keep in mind: Some policies can be rather wordy, drafting a concise, easy-to-understand document will be more helpful in the long-run than a long, meticulous document that is overwhelming to new staff.
 - Each policy will be unique to each institution, rules that work for one museum will not always work for another, but remember, PREVENTION is what we're aiming for.
- Place sticky-traps in strategic places; near doors and corners in collections rooms and labs, close to at risk objects on exhibit, if possible
 - Monitor and record findings from sticky traps on a routine basis, bi-annually at the least
 - If you have greater resources, monthly checks allow determination of pest trends
 - <http://www.collectionpests.com/> is a paid online monitoring resource to track IPM data, if you have funding for it; Excel can also be helpful
- Establishing an IPM Committee or Team can aid in creating a museum-wide presence.

KEEP UP!

- IPM does work, but requires continuous, conscientious practice in order to remain effective (it is not like a pesticide program that only requires a few applications a year, it is a daily mindset from everyone).
- Show appreciation to people who adhere to policy through e-mails and simple words of gratitude. Positive reinforcement will empower staff to share IPM with colleagues and visitors.
- Be approachable, if the policy appears too hard or has hurt feelings attached to it, continual buy-in will be difficult.
- If possible, include IPM as a part of each employee's orientation, performance reviews and evaluations.
- And last, but not least: make IPM as fun and as easy as possible! For you, your staff and visitors.