

Lesson 4

Controlling Pests Without Pesticides. Use Pesticides as a Last Resort.

- *A Pesticide Is ...*
- *Keep Your Home Pest Free*
- *How to Read a Pesticide Label*
- *Pesticide Alternatives*
- *How to Repair a Screen*
- *How to Patch Small Holes in Drywall*
- *How to Patch Large Holes in Drywall*
- *Send Pests Packing!*
- *Help! It's a Roach!*
- *Video: How to Control Pests*

LA FAMILIA SANA: PROMOTORA PROGRAM

LESSON PLAN

Pesticide Safety Lesson 4: Controlling Pests Without Pesticides. Use Pesticides as a Last Resort.

By the end of the lesson, participants will be able to:

- Describe and provide 1 example of “starve them out,” “dry them out,” and “keep them out.”
- Describe and provide 1 non-pesticide solution to eliminate insects and rodents from the home.
- Locate on a pesticide container where instructions for safe use can be found.

Participant materials:

- Handout: *A Pesticide Is.....*
- Handout: *Keep Your Home Pest Free*
- Handout: Pesticide Label
- Handout: *Pesticide Alternatives*
- Comic Book: *Send Pests Packing!*
- Video: *How to Control Pests*

Tool kit:

- Non-pesticide/Low pesticide: Ant traps, sticky or closed mouse traps, fly strips, boric acid, cockroach traps
- Repair tools: screen repair kit, caulk, weather stripping, putty knife, insulating foam sealant

Demonstration materials (optional): If the family has these needs, then review them. If not, leave the information for them to review later if they choose

- Coloring Book: *Help! It's a Roach!*
- Handout: *How to Repair a Screen*
- Handout: *How to Patch Small Holes in Drywall*
- Handout: *How to Patch Large Holes in Drywall*

1. Relative health risks of pesticides and insects

Assessment

- Are bugs or pesticides more dangerous for the health of your family? Why do you think that?
- What methods have you tried to keep the pests out of your home?
- What would you do if you had a problem with cockroaches or mice in your kitchen? What if you had problems with bugs in your child's bedroom, what would you do?

Activity

- Review *A Pesticide Is...* (Household side).
- Show video: *How to Control Pests*.
- Review handout: *Keep Your Home Pest Free*.
- Review the list of low risk pesticide alternatives and remind the participant that these are ways to eliminate pests without using pesticides.
- Optional: Offer the participant the repair handouts and review the toolkit items for house repair if the participant is interested.

Reflection

- What are three ways you can get rid of pests in your home without using pesticides?
- If you were describing “starve them out,” “dry them out,” and “keep them out” to a friend, what would you say?

Note: If the participant cannot respond to these questions, please review the lesson again.

2. Help the participant understand how he/she can use pesticides responsibly

Activities

- Review the pesticide label provided.
- Choose one of the following options:
 - After going over the handout, get a copy of the same handout with the boxes blank and encourage the participant to remember which section is which on the pesticide label.
 - Using a pesticide container from the home, work with participant to find sections that are labeled on the handout.

Reflection

- How would you show someone who lives with you how to find the safety information on a pesticide label?

Note: If the participant cannot respond to these questions, please review the lesson again.

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PESTICIDE ALTERNATIVES

No or low-pesticide alternatives	
Ant traps	These traps have low levels of pesticides and do not cause harm to humans. Place these in the path of the ants. Usually, ants always follow their same path; therefore, it will be easy to identify places for the traps. Keep them out of reach of children.
Sticky or closed mouse traps	Identify areas where rodents frequent. These places are usually in or near the kitchen or trash. When the mice pass through the traps they will get stuck or trapped.
Fly strips	Place the strips in areas where mosquitoes or flies are. They can be placed on the ceiling near the light bulbs, by the windows, or any other place out of reach of children.
Boric acid	Boric acid is toxic in large quantities. It is recommended to be careful especially if children are present. Mix one-half cup of boric acid with a quarter of a cup of corn meal. Shape into small balls and place in strategic places that are out of reach of children. They take about 8 to 10 days to take effect. Another way to use it is by placing small amounts around the edges of the counters or floors where cockroaches frequent but always out of reach of children. Always wash your hands after handling boric acid.
Cockroach traps	Place these traps in strategic places that are out of reach of children. They can be placed behind the stove, furniture, refrigerator, or where children do not have access.

Tools	
Screen repair kit	This contains a piece of mesh that is used to repair door and window screens to prevent insects from coming into the house.
Caulk or spackling compound	This is used to plug holes on walls or floor to prevent insects from coming into the house.
Weather strip	This strip is placed at the edge of window or door frames to prevent cold or hot air, as well as insects from coming into the house. It is important to clean the application area so it can stick well.
Putty knife	This is a tool used with the caulk or spackling compound to patch holes.
Insulating foam sealant	This foam is used to plug leaks or holes under the sink, around pipes, or anywhere in the house. Apply enough foam to the area. It will harden as it dries. Follow instructions on the container.

Note: These tools are not expensive and can be found at any hardware store or a big chain supermarket.