

When using mothballs,

it is important to remember they are pesticides. Most mothballs contain either naphthalene or para-dichlorobenzene. Both of these chemicals are harmful to humans.

Mothballs were created to get rid of clothes moths and fiber pests found on wool and other natural fibers.

They should be used only in closed containers such as storage closets, trunks, chests and garment bags.

They should never be used in any public building, especially schools and day care centers where vapors could be inhaled by humans.

How you can come in contact with mothballs.

- Mothballs let off vapors that can be inhaled by people.
- Children can mistake mothballs for candy and attempt to eat them.
- Children also may come in contact with the pesticide from wearing clothing or diapers or using bedding that has been stored with mothballs.

How contact with mothballs can affect your health.

- Coming in contact with large amounts of naphthalene may damage or destroy red blood cells, causing hemolytic anemia. Symptoms of this condition can be fatigue, lack of appetite, restlessness and pale skin.
- Other symptoms that may be observed in people who come in contact with mothballs include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, blood in the urine and yellowing of the skin.

Is there a safe way to control pests?

Integrated pest management strategies, also known as IPM, are safe and effective ways to deal with pests without using pesticides. Integrated pest management uses a common sense approaches to managing pests that are less harmful to young children and child care providers than pesticides. When IPM is fully carried out it can reduce pesticide use.

If pesticides are used, follow the label instructions to use them safely and correctly.

Where to get tips for getting rid of pests in child care centers.

Visit www.LSUAgCenter.com to find an LSU AgCenter research or extension professional in your area who can provide tips on getting rid of insects, rodents and other pests.

Where you can find more information about Integrated Pest Management.

- LSU Ag Center:
www.LSUAgCenter.com
- National Extension Initiative:
www.eXtension.org
- National Pesticide Information Center: 888-858-7378 or
www.npic.orst.edu

Who you should call if students or staff come in contact with mothballs or other pesticides?

**Louisiana Poison Center
800-222-1222**

The center provides poison information and treatment recommendations related to pesticide exposure.

