



The William R. and Clarice V. Spurlock Museum The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Spurlock Museum Achieves Green Shield Certification for its Campus Location

Since 1911, the Spurlock Museum at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has been celebrating the commonality of human themes found in diverse cultural traditions via their diligent collecting, preserving, exhibiting, and study of cultural objects and artifacts from all over the globe. Out of this same spirit of reverence and stewardship for what is collectively ours, the Spurlock Museum has further distinguished itself as a model of environmental responsibility, efficiency and reduced chemical exposure with their successful achievement of Green Shield Certification. These efforts were recently recognized by the independent, non-profit IPM Institute of North America, Inc., which has awarded the facility the certification after verifying compliance with its standards through a rigorous, on-site evaluation.

Formerly the World Heritage Museum, the Spurlock Museum is located on the campus of the University of Illinois and is administered through the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. As the first museum in North America to achieve Green Shield Certification, the Spurlock Museum is a trailblazer for greener pest control practices in public facilities.

Christa Deacy-Quinn, collections manager for The Spurlock Museum, describes the spark that led her to seek green pest control. "In 1996, I received a collection that was completely infested with moths and larvae coming out as I opened things up. There were unmarked containers in the boxes that had chemicals in them as well and I was really concerned about what I was being exposed to. Some of the objects were too far gone and had to be disposed of and it was incredibly frustrating. At that point I had to find a better way."

The sensitive nature of the materials in the infested environment called for a different approach as well. "I had people calling me in a panic," she said. "The first thing I do is calm them down, and tell them it's not going to destroy their collections overnight. In one case, I suggested putting an infested object in a plastic bag and placing it in their greenhouse for a couple of days, and it received enough heat to kill the insects. You can freeze many objects as well."

Smarter, effective approaches such as this are key to the principles of Integrated Pest Management or IPM, which are long-term, preventive strategies that deny pests the food, water and shelter they need to survive. Inspection is always the first step, followed by intelligent measures to eliminate pest-friendly conditions. Pesticides are a last resort—only those meeting strict Green Shield Certified criteria for least-risk products may be used, and only when applied in a way that reduces potential for exposure.

Green Shield Certified is an independent, non-profit certification program that promotes effective, prevention-based pest control while minimizing the need to use pesticides. Green Shield Certified is operated by the IPM Institute of North America, a non-profit organization recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its expertise and accomplishments in promoting integrated pest management.