



**GREEN
SHIELD
CERTIFIED**

Envirosafe

Pest control. Peace of mind.

**Envirosafe One of the First in the Nation to Achieve GREEN SHIELD
CERTIFIED Status for Excellence in Pest Control Services**

Envirosafe, a Grand Rapids-based pest management firm, has become one of the first in the nation to earn certification under the new GREEN SHIELD CERTIFIED program. Envirosafe underwent a comprehensive on-site evaluation by an independent non-profit organization to achieve this distinction.

The company, with five technicians serving school districts throughout Michigan, was founded in 1999 by Bob Stoddard, who continues to serve as company president. Stoddard, a former public school employee in Grand Rapids, was persuaded by parents at the school to try an IPM approach in 1992. By 1993, he had completely eliminated spray applications of pesticides and was achieving excellent pest control. This success inspired Stoddard to form Envirosafe and offer the same approach to additional school systems and other commercial and residential clients.

Stoddard is an expert educator and diagnostician. When a client has a problem, his focus is on identifying the underlying cause, and educating the client to help eliminate pest-friendly conditions. The service Envirosafe offers is a true partnership that generates results with an absolute minimum of pesticide use.

For example, one of Envirosafe's client schools was using insecticide foggers in the school's greenhouse for fungus gnats and white flies. Although the greenhouse was not included in Envirosafe's contract, he recommended a monitoring program using yellow sticky cards, and suggested a transition to insecticidal soap, horticultural oils and beneficial insects when needed, plus improving regular sanitation under the greenhouse benches.

Another client had a persistent rodent problem in a food storeroom, despite treating regularly with rodenticides. By "rodent-proofing" the storage – sealing entry holes and storing edibles in sealed containers, the problem was solved permanently.

Envirosafe's approach is based on Integrated Pest Management, or IPM for short. IPM is a common sense approach that seeks to identify long-term solutions to pest problems, and least-hazardous controls when necessary. They provides an extensive manual to schools and regular newsletters on timely pest topics to remind clients what they can do to prevent problems. The GREEN SHIELD CERTIFIED program is operated by the IPM Institute of North America, an non-profit organization recognized by the US Environmental Protection Agency for its work.