

Washington State University's Structural Pest Research and Demonstration Facility

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Why a Structural Pest Research and Demonstration Facility?

This facility will offer unique opportunities for research and demonstration related to structural pests and their management. In addition, it will provide for both hands-on demonstration workshops and pre-license training classes for Structural Pest Inspectors, Pest Management Professionals, and other clientele.

Our goal is to reduce the number of inaccurate wood-destroying organism inspections, and the potential health risks from unnecessary or improper pesticide applications. A trained workforce of Structural Pest Inspectors and Pest Management Professionals will be more knowledgeable about identification of structural pests, conditions conducive to pest infestations, and integrated pest management (IPM) techniques.



IPM in the urban environment requires identification of the pest, evaluation of the damage or health threat posed by pest infestations, and a determination of conditions conducive for infestation.



At the Structural Pest Facility, inspectors and pest managers will get hands-on experience identifying wood-destroying organisms, their damage, and the conditions that are conducive for infestations by examining damaged wood with insect frass or other remains. Inspectors and applicators will learn to identify carpenter ants, subterranean termites, anobiid beetles, odorous house ants, and other arthropods by observing living and dead insect specimens with microscopes and other diagnostic tools available at WSU Puyallup.

After accurate pest identification, IPM strategies can be developed and effectively employed to reduce health and economic injury from urban pests.

Pest Management Professionals will be shown effective IPM strategies, including monitoring tools, exclusionary devices, safe methods of applying pesticides, and other IPM-related processes.



The Structural Pest Research and Demonstration Facility is a Cooperative Effort!

The Structural Pest Research and Demonstration Facility has many partners, and sponsors are getting involved. Initial funding for the structure has been provided by the Washington State Commission on Pesticide Registration and IPM, the Norm Ehmann Fund, the Washington State Pest Control Association, the Washington State University Urban IPM and Pesticide Safety Education Program, and the Washington State Department of Agriculture. Pest inspection and management business owners from the Puget Sound area have participated on the planning committee, including Carrendenent Enterprises, AAA Inspection Services, Olympic Home Inspections, Price Pest Control, Whitworth Pest Solutions, and The Bug Man. Tom Herstad Building Design, Inc. has contributed architectural plans for the structure and Sound Built Homes is supplying building materials. We anticipate many additional partners and sponsors as the project moves forward.

Watch for the Structural Pest Facility Website.

A website is currently being developed to track the progress of the facility's construction. It will also provide information on demonstration and training workshops offered at WSU Puyallup for Structural Pest Inspectors and Pest Management Professionals. Research projects conducted at the facility will be highlighted on the website. Beginning September 1, visit the website at <http://structuralpest.wsu.edu>. You can also get more information by contacting Carrie Foss at 253-445-4577 or cfoss@wsu.edu. You can contact Anna Stutler (253-445-4508) if you are interested in giving charitable donations to be used to further develop the facility, educational resources or for research projects.