

# Cleanliness

**Child Care Learning Centers: 591-1-1-.25(3)** – The Center and surrounding premises shall be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center.

**Family Child Care Learning Homes: 290-2-3-.13(1)** – The Home's building shall be kept clean and free from obvious hazards to the children's health and safety. **290-2-3-.13(g)** – Measures shall be utilized to prevent the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin on the premises. Windows and doors used for ventilation shall be screened.

**Rule Type:**  
**Non-Core Rule**

## Intent of the Rule

To prevent the spread of infection and to protect children's health and safety.

## Clarification

This rule refers to the general condition of the facility. Children play in and explore their environments. The physical structure where children spend each day can present safety concerns if the structure is not kept in good repair and maintained in a safe, clean condition. For example, peeling paint in an older building could be potentially hazardous if ingested by a child, and broken glass windows could cause severe cuts or other injury. Children's environments must be protected from exposure to moisture, dirt, and dust.

The program should always be maintained in a clean and sanitary manner to prevent invasion by rodents and insects. Garbage and waste must be regularly removed from the facility/home, at least daily, to minimize the presence of rodents and vermin. Screened windows prevent insects that could infest the building or bite and sting children and staff from entering the building. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends calling a commercial exterminator if evidence of infestation is discovered. Poisons and baited traps should never be used in a way that places children's safety at risk.

---

## Indicators

- ✓ Child care program staff must ensure the premises are kept clean and free of debris.
  - TIP: Inspect indoor and outdoor areas daily for cleanliness and debris. Use a checklist when conducting the inspection to ensure areas are not overlooked or missed.
  - Organizational Tip: Assign and train specific staff on proper cleaning procedures. It is best practice that all staff be trained and familiar with these procedures. In addition, schedule routine maintenance, such as carpet cleanings, regularly.
  
- ✓ Child care program staff must ensure the premises are in good repair and free from hazards.
  - TIP: Inspect indoor and outdoor areas daily for needed repairs and hazards.
  - Organizational Tip: Create a log in which staff can document repairs needed on the premises.

- ✓ Child care program staff must ensure the premises are free of rodents, flies, roaches, and other vermin.
  - TIP: Store outdoor garbage away from the building to reduce the possibility of pests entering the building. Outdoor garbage receptacles should be covered.
  - Organizational Tip: Keep documentation (e.g., invoices, receipts, etc.) of services provided by a professional exterminator. Based on the guidelines recommended by *Caring for Our Children Basics: Health and Safety Foundations for Early Care and Education*, child care programs should adopt an integrated pest management program to ensure long-term, environmentally sound pest suppression through a range of practices including pest exclusion, sanitation and clutter control, and elimination of conditions conducive to pest infestations. (5.2.8.1 Integrated Pest Management)
  - Reminder: It is best practice that outdoor garbage containers not be located in a route that is regularly used by children.

## **Resources:**

Caring for Our Children, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

<http://cfoc.nrckids.org>