



Prevent Pests when Serving Breakfast on the Bus



Breakfast offers many benefits for students including improved health, learning, and attendance. Schools are increasingly looking at [alternatives to traditional breakfast service](#) to meet the nutritional needs of their students. Each alternative presents unique pest control challenges. Breakfast on the bus is one such service option that can lead to pest issues in an unexpected location – the school bus.

Why Serve Breakfast on the Bus?

According to USDA's Food and Nutrition Service:

- Busy home schedules and bus arrival schedules mean many students lack the time for breakfast.
- Serving breakfast on the bus takes advantage of the commuting time and helps students arrive at school well-nourished and ready to learn.

How Breakfast on the Bus Works

- Students are served packaged or bagged breakfasts as they board their bus.
- They eat at a leisurely pace and in a social atmosphere while riding to school.
- Students dispose of their own trash either on the bus, upon exiting the bus, or inside the school.

Keeping Pests off the Bus

Pests like flies, cockroaches, and mice are attracted to places that offer food, water, and shelter. On buses, they are drawn to food on the floor, crumbs in the seat cushions, or juice-laden fingerprints on the walls. Here are some tips to keep pests from invading your buses or surviving if they find their way onboard.

- Establish waste management and cleaning procedures with the transportation and custodial staff.
- Provide trash bags, paper towels, and cleaning supplies on each bus.
- Remove trash from buses immediately upon arrival at school or the transportation center.
- Have drivers or transportation staff look for food debris during post-trip inspections.
- Clean buses daily to remove the food, water, and shelter that pests need to survive.
- Focus cleaning on seats (frames, backs and bottoms), grab rails and stanchions, and floors (vacuum, sweep or mop) to eliminate food debris, gum, and grease that can feed pests.
- Alter trash and recycling programs to accommodate the disposal of food waste and packaging.

A Holistic Approach to Pests

- Managing pests on buses should be part of your district's [Integrated Pest Management](#) (IPM) program.
- IPM is a smart, sensible and sustainable approach to managing pests in and around schools, including on the buses.
- IPM reduces unnecessary exposure of students and staff to pests and pesticides.
- IPM includes inspection to identify sources of food, water, and shelter for pests, tactics to eliminate pest-conducive conditions, and the judicious use of pesticides.



For More Information

Contact EPA's Center for School IPM
school.ipm@epa.gov | 844-EPA-SIPM