Any Thurston County department that identifies a pest problem writes a prescription before using chemicals to kill it. Prescriptions describe the pest problem, at what level the pest becomes a problem (injury level), evaluation or monitoring process, non-chemical controls, and a tiered chemical control strategy that starts with least toxic products and potentially escalating to more toxic products.

Department submits prescription to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Coordinator (Patrick Soderberg, 867-2586). Prescriptions may require amendments to help maintain consistency and facilitate the approval process.

IPM Coordinator submits prescription to Pest and Vegetation Management Advisory Committee (PVMAC) for review and comment (Jeff Britt, PVMAC Chair). IPM Coordinator sets a meeting with the PVMAC and Department to discuss prescription. Some refinement of prescription may be requested by the committee.

PVMAC writes a letter to the Board of Health to recommend approval or rejection of prescription.

Department requests a review of the prescription by the Board of Health.

Board of Health approves the IPM prescription. Department can execute IPM prescription with pesticides that have “passed” the County’s review criteria and can escalate to “conditional” rated pesticides with additional approval from the IPM Coordinator.

Board of Health rejects the IPM prescription. Department writes a new prescription with a different control strategy.