

# STEPS TO A PEST-FREE INDOOR ENVIRONMENT

## Kitchen

Store food in tightly sealed containers.

Keep area around and under refrigerator clean and dry.

Clean the refrigerator every 6 months.

## Bathroom

Fix leaks right away.

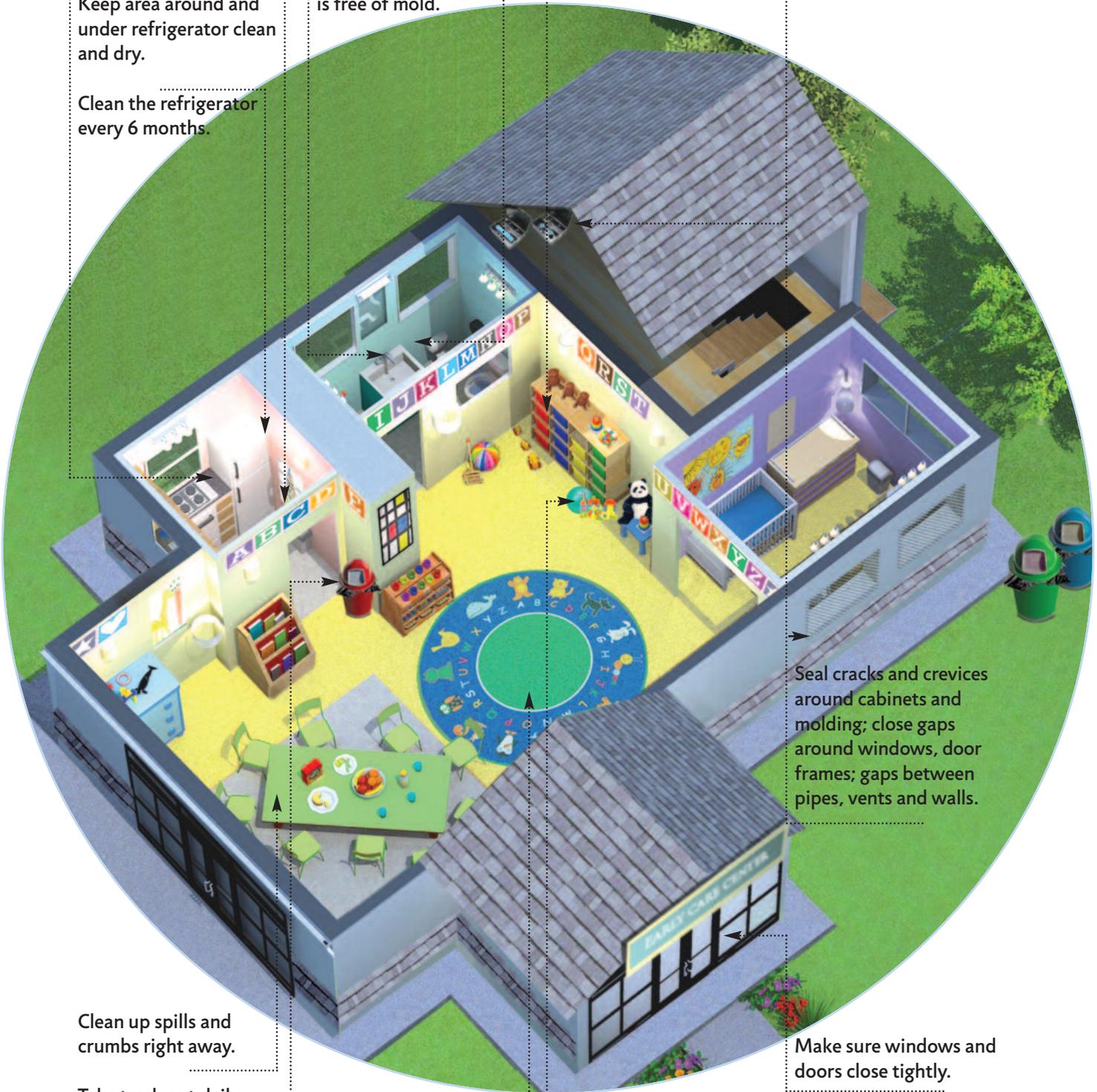
Make sure bathroom is free of mold.

## Common Area

Use plastic bins with lids for storage, not cardboard boxes.

## General

Place bait stations and traps out of reach of children.



Clean up spills and crumbs right away.

Take trash out daily.

Seal cracks and crevices around cabinets and molding; close gaps around windows, door frames; gaps between pipes, vents and walls.

Make sure windows and doors close tightly.

Minimize clutter and hiding places for pests.

Mop and vacuum floors daily.



# STEPS TO A PEST-FREE OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT

## Distances

Trees and shrub branches are 6 feet from building.

Plants are at least 12 inches from building.

Yellowjacket traps are 50 feet from where children play.

Foundation comes up at least 12 inches above soil level. Water drains away from building.

## General

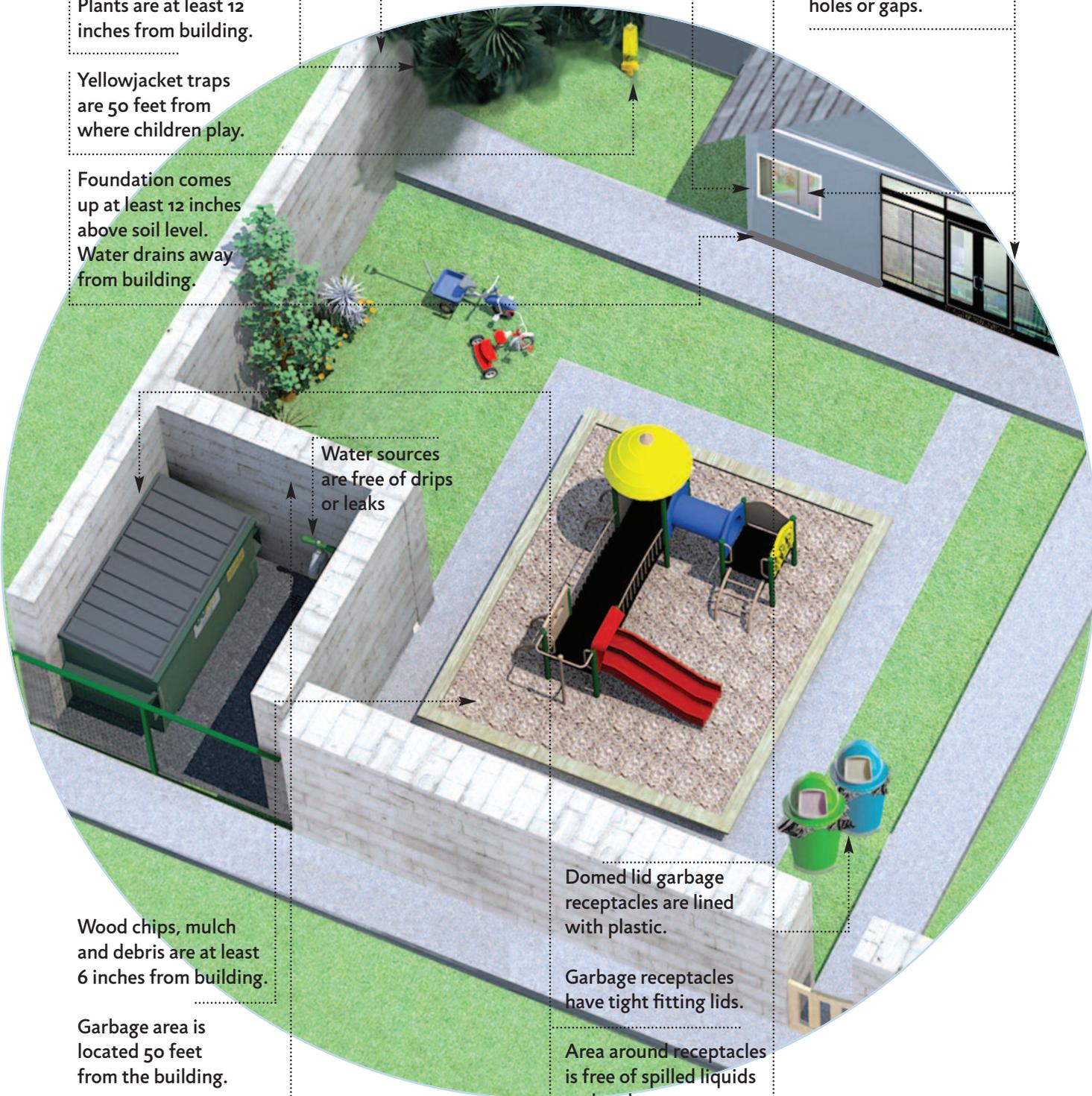
Walls and foundation are free of cracks or holes.

## Garbage

## Windows and doors

Close tightly.

Screens are free of holes or gaps.



Water sources are free of drips or leaks

Wood chips, mulch and debris are at least 6 inches from building.

Garbage area is located 50 feet from the building.

Domed lid garbage receptacles are lined with plastic.

Garbage receptacles have tight fitting lids.

Area around receptacles is free of spilled liquids and garbage.

Garbage receptacles are located on a hard, cleanable surface such as concrete.

# HOW TO READ A PESTICIDE LABEL



Read the label of any pesticide to identify the name, ingredients, directions, and potential harmful effects on children and staff. The following is a quick overview of key things to look for on the label:

**The precautionary statements** describe potential harmful effects to people, animals or the environment.

**The directions for use** tell you where, when and how to use the pesticide safely. Follow these directions precisely. This section also tells you what kind of pest this product was designed to kill.

**The storage and disposal** instructions tell you how to store and dispose of leftover pesticides.

**The Environmental Protection Agency Registration number** ensures that the pesticide has been reviewed by EPA.

**The first aid section** tells you what to do if the product is swallowed, breathed in (inhaled), or has made contact with the skin or eyes.

**The signal words** such as **Caution, Warning, Danger, or Danger-Poison** refer to the short-term or acute effects of the active ingredient.

**The Restricted Use Pesticide** tells you only certified pest management professionals may use this product.

**The product or brand name** is prominently displayed on the front label. Brand names are different from active ingredients.

**The active ingredient** is the chemical that kills the pest.

**Inert or other ingredients** do not directly kill the pests, but instead help the active ingredients work. They may be harmful.

For more information on reading a pesticide label, see the EPA "Read the Label First" website: [www.epa.gov/pesticides/label/](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/label/)

# HOW TO CHOOSE A SAFER PESTICIDE TO MANAGE PESTS



Traps, baits and gels provide better long-term control of pests because:

- ▶ pests take the pesticide back to the nest or hiding places where it kills the whole colony;
- ▶ the pesticide is contained and does not expose staff and children;
- ▶ they last longer than sprays.



Foggers and sprays are less effective because they:

- ▶ do not last very long;
- ▶ kill pests you can see, but do not kill the nest or pests hiding and breeding in out-of-the-way places;
- ▶ can spread pesticides throughout your facility and expose children and staff.

