

Purpose

This provides background information about the law dealing with the use of pesticides in schools, defines the different types of pesticides and explains what an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) means. It explains the procedures that must be followed when pesticides are applied on school grounds.

Guidance

Background Information

Increasing concern about the impact of pesticides on children's health has led to a law dealing with pesticide use in schools, licensed child care and Early Learning Programs. As of July 1, 2002, public schools and licensed child care and other Early Learning Programs must provide annual notification of their pest control policies and methods, establish a system to notify families of children and employees of planned pesticide use, and post signs where pesticides have been applied. (Chapter 17.21 RCW, The Pesticide Application Act).

The impact of pesticides on children's health can range from irritation to skin and mucous membranes, to difficulty breathing, rash or vomiting. Long term exposure may lead to developmental delay, immune or endocrine system disruption or cancer.

In addition, children with special needs, asthma and allergies can be highly sensitive to pesticides and suffer from mild to severe reactions to pesticides and pesticide residues.

Definition of a Pesticide

A pesticide is a substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest. The term pesticide applies to:

- Pesticides (note: some fertilizers may contain pesticides)
- Insecticides (i.e. ant or roach killer, flea and lice control products)
- Herbicides (i.e. weed killers)
- Fungicides (i.e. sanitizers, cleaners, mold and mildew cleaners, some pool chemicals for algae, including bleach (note: when bleach is used for general sanitizing [$\frac{1}{4}$ cup bleach: 1 gallon water] it is NOT considered a pesticide).
- Miticides (i.e. mite control products; termite, dust, spider)

*Labels should be read carefully. The label will contain an EPA registration number.

Staff will use the least amount of chemicals to control pests in order to provide the healthiest environment possible for children.

Programs will attempt to prevent re-infestation by:

- Taking out trash daily or more as needed.
- Cleaning trash cans regularly.
- Keeping trash cans or dumpsters covered and away from the building.
- Keeping grounds clear of food and rubbish.
- Storing food in sealed plastic or metal containers.
- Cleaning and sanitizing all dishes, utensils, and surfaces used for eating or food preparation after meals and at the end of the day.
- Preventing pest entry into facility by sealing cracks and holes, using and repairing window screens and door sweeps.
- Moisture control by maintaining plumbing and water drainage systems.

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- Mechanically managing weeds.
 - Planting native vegetation that is non-toxic.
 - Mulching plant beds.
- AND
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

IPM is a pest management strategy that focuses on long term prevention or suppression of pest problems including the following six components:

(*Must also be in compliance with RCW 17.21.415)

1. Education of staff
2. Monitoring pests
3. Pest prevention (non-chemical)
4. Least hazardous approach to pest control
5. Notification of pesticide use
6. Record keeping

A sample manual for Integrated Pest Management in schools can be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/schoolipm/index.html>

Procedure

Building/Facility Application

Pre-Notification

Families and staff will be notified at least forty-eight (48) hours before a building/structural pesticide application. The notification system will include:

- A system of notifying each family and staff member in writing (i.e. a letter sent home or mailed) AND
- Posting of the pre-notification in a prominent place in the main office, the front door, and on the door to each classroom.
- Pesticide application must be made within 48 hours following the intended date and time stated or the pre-notification process must be repeated.

The pre-notification requirements do NOT apply if the indoor application is made when the building is NOT occupied by children or staff for at least two (2) consecutive days after the application (i.e. Friday evening).

The pre-notification requirements do not apply to any emergency application for control of any pest that poses an immediate human health or safety threat, such as an application to control stinging insects. When an emergency application is made notification will be made at the time of application and the building will be evacuated and closed to protect children and staff unless the area treated can be contained and inaccessible to children.

Time of Application Notification (Facility/Structure)

“Pre-Notification” signs must be updated if application differs from intended application with regard to product used, date or time applied, location of the pesticide applied, pest controlled, and name or phone # of contact person.

“Time of Application Notification” signs will remain in place for at least twenty-four (24) hours from the time the application is completed. In the event the pesticide label requires a restricted entry interval (REI) greater than twenty-four (24) hours, the notification sign will remain in place consistent with the restricted entry interval (REI) time as required by the label.

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A school facility application does not include the application of antimicrobial pesticides (bleach) or the placement of insect or rodent baits that are not accessible to children.

The “Pre-Notification” and “Time of Application Notification” signs for facility/structure applications of pesticides (including school buses) will be a minimum of eight and one-half by eleven inches (8.5” x 11”) and printed in colors contrasting to the background. It will state the following and will include the heading:

“Notice: Pesticide Application”

1. Product name of the pesticide to be applied
2. Intended date/time of application
3. Location of application
4. Pest to be controlled
5. Name and phone number of Early Learning contact person

Landscape/Grounds Application

A landscape (school grounds) application is any pesticide application to exterior landscape plants, lawn or insect nest located on Early Learning grounds (including weed killers).

Pre-notification of pesticide application to grounds/landscape will be made to all families at least 48 hours before the application of pesticides using:

- A system of notifying each family and staff member in writing (i.e. a letter sent home or mailed) AND
- Posting of the pre-notification letter in a prominent place in the main office, the front door of the building, and on the door to each classroom.

At the time of pesticide application notification signs will be posted for all pesticide applications made to Early Learning grounds unless the application is otherwise required to be posted by a certified applicator under the provisions of RCW 17.21.410(1)(d). Notification signs for applications made to the grounds by Early Learning employees will be placed at the location of the application and at each entry point to the area being treated. Several signs will be posted when large areas are treated. Signs will also be posted in a prominent place in the main office, the front door of the building, and on the door to each classroom.

Notification signs for landscape/grounds application will be a minimum of four inches by five inches (4” x 5”), placed at least twelve inches from the ground and remain in place for a minimum of 24 hours or as stated on label. These signs will include the words:

“This landscape has been recently sprayed or treated with pesticides by: (Program Name); for more information, please call: (Contact Name/Phone Number).”

Liability

Puget Sound ESD Early Learning programs are not liable for the removal of signs by unauthorized persons and may not be held liable for personal property damage or bodily injury resulting from signs that are placed as required.

Storage and Disposal of Pesticides

Storage

The following Washington State Department of Agriculture rules for storage of pesticides will be followed:

- Pesticides will not be stored above food due to the possibility of leakage.

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- Children will not touch or transport any pesticide or pesticide container.
- Pesticides with the signal words of “**Danger**”, “**Warning**”, or “**Caution**” will be stored in secured storage out of reach of children in an acceptable enclosure.
- To prevent children, unauthorized persons or other animals from gaining entry, pesticides with signal words “**Danger/Poison**” will be stored in an acceptable locked enclosure with signs posted.

Enclosure can be:

- A building or room or fenced area with a fence at least 6 feet high
- A foot locker or other container which can be locked
- A bulk storage container fifty (50) gallons and larger with tight screw type bungs and/or secured or locked valves.
- Metal containers twenty-eight gallons and larger with screw-type bungs and/or secured and locked valves.
- Sealed five (5) gallon containers (requiring a tool to unseal)

Disposal

There are strict rules for disposing of leftover pesticide product and its container. Pesticides and their containers may NOT be thrown away in regular garbage nor disposed of into our water supply (ground or sewer). Contact your local solid waste program for instructions.

In King County: <http://www.hazwastehelp.org/default.aspx>

In Pierce County: <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/index.aspx?NID=1544>