



Module 5

Using Pesticides in and around Schools

Things to consider when it comes to pesticide use at the District

- Who is going to make pesticide applications at the District?
 - Indoors
 - Grounds
 - Contracted
 - District Employee
- If you decide to license a school employee know what you need
 - Does the person have prior knowledge or experience
 - How much time and money is the district willing to spend on this
 - How much is the person who is being licensed have the desire to take on this responsibility.



What is a Pesticide?



(B)*



Regulatory Requirements: Notifications, Postings, and Consumer Information Sheets

Advance Notice Requirements

- Schools must notify parents, staff, and guardians in advance about upcoming pesticide treatments with detailed information.

Mandatory Signage Posting

- Visible signage must be placed at treatment sites with required wording and remain posted for specified timeframes.

Consumer Information Sheets

- CIS provide pesticide risk details, safe handling instructions, and contact info, available upon request and kept accessible.

Shared Accountability

- Both licensed applicators and school IPM coordinators share responsibility to ensure adherence to posting and notification rules

RULE §7.146 Pest Control Sign

- (a) A pest control sign must be provided by the licensee to a residential rental property owner or manager at least 48 hours prior to a planned indoor treatment at a residential rental property with five (5) or more rental units.
- (b) A pest control sign must be provided by the licensee to the employer or building manager at least 48 hours prior to a planned indoor treatment at a workplace.
- (c) A pest control sign must be provided by the licensee to the chief administrator, IPM Coordinator, or building manager at least 48 hours prior to a planned indoor treatment at a hospital, nursing home, hotel, motel, lodge, warehouse, food-processing establishment, school or educational institution, or day care center.
- (d) A person may not be considered in violation of this section if the space to be treated is vacant, unused, and unoccupied, or if extenuating circumstances require an emergency treatment.

NOTICE OF PEST CONTROL TREATMENT

Date(s) of planned Treatment _____

Re-entry (if applicable) _____

Extenuating Circumstances may require unplanned treatments. To confirm treatment dates, please call the contact listed below.

For more information call or contact:

National Pesticide Information Center

1-800-858-7378

A Consumer Information Sheet may be obtained from the management.

Licensed and regulated by:
Texas Department of Agriculture,
PO Box 12847, Austin, Texas 78711-2847, Phone 866-918-4481, fax 888-232-2567.

(e) Each pest control sign must be at least 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches in size and contain the required information with the first line in a minimum of 24-point type (one-fourth inch) and all remaining lines in a minimum of 12-point type (one-eighth inch). The addition of advertising and logos to the sign is permissible to the extent that such advertising does not interfere with the purpose of public notification of a pest control treatment. A standard sign in Spanish is available from the Department upon request. The sign shall appear in a format approved by the Department. The text and format of the sign is available on the Structural Pest Control Service website at: <http://www.TexasAgriculture.gov/spcs>, or by contacting the Texas Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, TX 78711-2847, (866) 918-4481.

(f) In the space marked “For more information call or contact,” the telephone number to obtain information on the pesticide(s) used must be listed, such as the contact number for the apartment manager, building manager, IPM Coordinator, or pest control operator.

(g) In the space marked “phone number of hotline for pesticide information,” the following wording must be used: National Pesticide Information Center 1-800-858-7378.

(h) If a workplace has its own pesticide information center, the workplace center telephone number may be listed rather than the information in subsection (g) of this section.

NOTICE OF PEST CONTROL TREATMENT

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RULE §7.147 Consumer Information Sheet

(a) For an indoor treatment at a private residence that is not a rental property, the certified applicator or technician must make the consumer information sheet available to the owner of the residence.

(b) For an indoor treatment at a residential rental property with less than five (5) rental units, the certified applicator or technician must make the consumer information sheet available to each resident, upon request, at the time of each treatment.

(c) For an indoor treatment at a residential rental property with five (5) or more rental units, the certified applicator or technician must make the consumer information sheet available to the owner or manager of the complex. The certified applicator or technician must also supply the owner or manager with a pest control sign. The owner or manager or an employee or agent of the owner or manager, other than the certified applicator or technician, must notify residents who live in direct or adjacent areas of the treatment by:

CONSUMER INFORMATION SHEET

The structural pest control industry is regulated by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), Structural Pest Control Service (SPCS), P.O. Box 12847, Austin, TX 78711-2847. TDA licenses the businesses, certified applicators technicians, and registers apprentices who perform structural pest control work. Certified applicators and technicians must pass a written examination in order to receive their licenses.

Pesticides must be registered with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and TDA before they may be used in Texas. EPA registration is not a finding of product safety. Pesticides are designed to kill or control pests. Your risk of harm depends upon the degree of your exposure and your individual susceptibility.

Specific health and safety information varies between pesticides and types of exposures and is available on the label information or SDS sheet, which can be supplied to you upon request from the licensed applicator. Take precautions when a treatment has been performed to avoid exposure to vulnerable individuals. Pesticides may be harmful if swallowed, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin. Avoid breathing dust or spray mist and any unnecessary contact with treated surfaces. If you desire specific information on precautions, refer to the pesticide label. The law requires that the application procedures specified on the label be followed.

If you have questions about the application, contact the business or person making the application. If you suspect a violation of the law regarding structural pest control, contact the SPCS. In case of a health emergency, seek immediate medical attention.

Pest Control signs must be posted prior to treatment in many instances. The signs should be posted in an area of common access at least 48 hours prior to treatment. The information sign will allow you to contact someone who can tell you what pesticide is being used.

If you are contracting for pest control services due to a home solicitation, you have the right to cancel the contract within 72 hours. You may exercise this right by notifying the pest control company that you do not wish to receive their service.

For general information on pesticides, contact the National Pesticide Information Center 1-800-858-7378

For information concerning structural pest control laws, contact the Structural Pest Control Service at: 866-918-4481.

For information concerning the formulation and registration of pesticides, contact the TDA pesticide registration at (512) 463-7407 or 800-835-5832.

For non-emergency health information relating to pesticides, contact Texas Department of State Health Services (512) 458-7111.

REQUIRED BY THE TDA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL SERVICE

(1) posting the sign in an area of common access to residents at least 48 hours before each planned treatment; or

(2) distributing application information consistent with §7.146 of this title, relating to Pest Control Sign, at least 48 hours before each planned treatment by leaving the sign on the front door of each unit or in a conspicuous place inside each unit.

(d) For an indoor treatment at a workplace, the certified applicator or technician must make the consumer information sheet available and supply a pest control sign to the employer or the building manager. The employer or the building manager or an employee or agent of the owner or manager, other than the certified applicator or technician, must notify individuals at the workplace of the date of the planned treatment by:

(1) posting the sign in an area of common access that the employees are most likely to see at least 48 hours before each planned treatment; and

(2) making available the consumer information sheet to any individual working in the building on request of the individual if the request is made during normal business hours.

(e) For an indoor treatment at a building that is a hospital, nursing home, hotel, motel, lodge, warehouse, food-processing establishment, school or educational institution, or a day care center, the certified applicator or technician must make available the consumer information sheet and a pest control sign to the chief administrator, IPM Coordinator, or building manager. The chief administrator, IPM Coordinator, or building manager must notify the individuals who work or reside in the building of the treatment by:

(1) posting the sign in an area of common access that the individuals are likely to check at least 48 hours before each planned treatment; and

(2) making available the consumer information sheet to any individual working or residing in the building on request of the individual.

(f) The Department's consumer information sheet must be used. Copies of the consumer information sheet are available from the Department in English and Spanish on the Structural Pest Control Service website at: <http://www.TexasAgriculture.gov/spcs/>, or by contacting the Texas Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, TX 78711-2847, (866) 918-4481. The Department's consumer information sheet may be copied and used in accordance with this section.

(g) The pre-notification requirements of §§7.146-7.148 of this title are waived if the customer and certified applicator sign a statement attesting to the fact that an emergency exists which requires immediate treatment. If such an emergency exists, the consumer information sheet must be made available by the licensee. The statement must be kept on file with the pest control use records. If the customer is not available to sign a statement at the time of treatment, that shall be recorded in the use records along with the customer's name and telephone number. An emergency is defined as an imminent hazard to health. An emergency treatment is limited to the localized area of the emergency.

RULE §7.148

Responsibilities of Unlicensed Persons for Posting and Notification

(a) Owners or managers of residential rental properties with five (5) or more units must:

(1) post a pest control sign at least 48 hours before the planned indoor treatment in an area of common access to residents; or

(2) distribute the application information consistent with §7.146(e) of this title, relating to Pest Control Sign, to each unit planned to be treated and each unit adjacent to those planned to be treated or in an adjacent or area of common access at least 48 hours before the planned time of treatment; and

(3) make the consumer information sheet available upon request.

(b) Employers, building managers, IPM Coordinators, and chief administrators of workplaces, hospitals, nursing homes, hotels, motels, lodges, warehouses, food-processing establishments, school or educational institutions, and day care centers must post a pest control sign in an area of common access at least 48 hours prior to each planned indoor treatment and make a consumer information sheet to any individual working or residing in the building upon the request of that individual.

(c) Chief administrators or the IPM Coordinators of schools or educational institutions and daycare centers must notify the parents or guardians of children attending the facility in writing that pesticides are periodically applied indoors and outdoors, and that information on the times and types of applications and prior notification is available upon request. Such notification must be made at the time of the student's registration. Telephonic, written or electronic notification of planned applications will meet the notification requirements.

(d) The 48 hour pre-notification requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of this section may be waived if an emergency exists and the customer and certified applicator sign a statement attesting to the fact that an emergency exists that requires immediate treatment. The statement must be kept on file with the pest control use records at the business license location. Certified noncommercial applicators may attest to an emergency by signing a statement attesting to the emergency and must keep the statement on file with the pest control use records. An emergency is defined as an imminent hazard to health and emergency treatment is limited to the localized area of the emergency.

(e) A person may not be considered in violation of this section if a pest control sign is removed by an unauthorized person or if the space to be treated is vacant, unused and unoccupied at the time of treatment.

IPM Coordinator Responsibilities and Compliance Oversight

Compliance and Documentation

- Maintain accurate records of pest activity, treatments, and product use to ensure regulatory compliance and audit readiness.

Communication and Training

- Supervise communication efforts, conduct staff training, and ensure proper posting and notification procedures are followed.

Coordination with Applicators and Vendors

- Coordinate with licensed applicators and contractors, ensuring adherence to protocols and school-specific constraints.

Emergency Response Management

- Evaluate emergency pest situations, document justifications for waivers, and ensure follow-up procedures are performed properly

School IPM Rules and License Rules

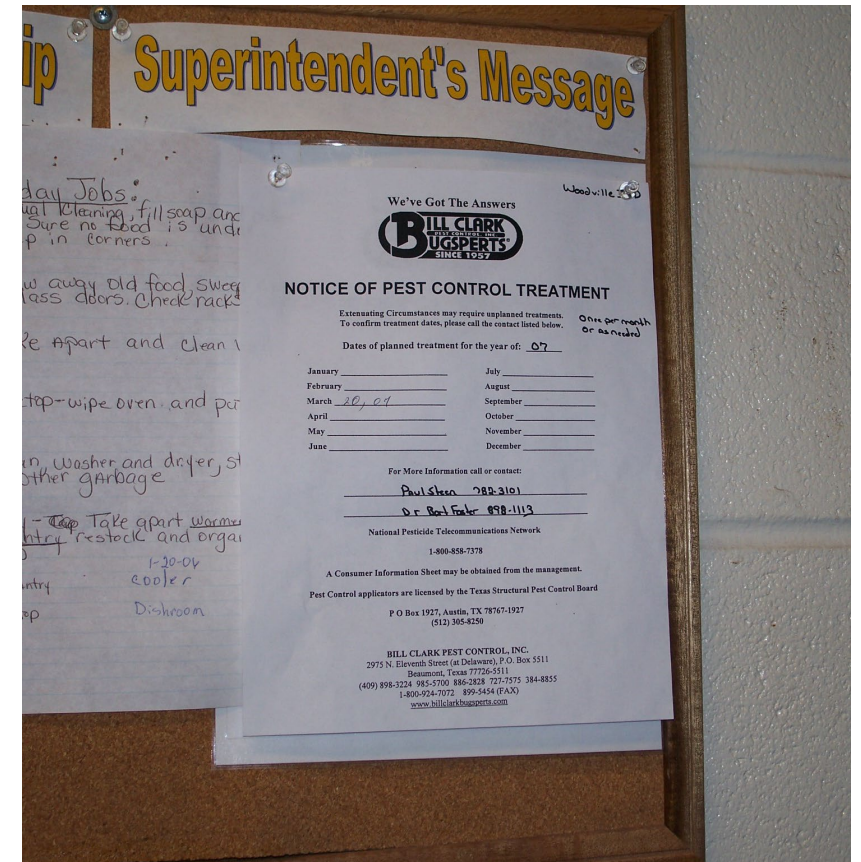
Pesticide Use

All pesticides used by school districts must be registered with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Department of Agriculture, with the exception of those pesticides that have been exempted from registration by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), Section 25(b).

All pesticides used by school districts must also bear a label as required by FIFRA and Chapter 76 of the Texas Agriculture Code. Pesticides intended and labeled for use on humans are exempt from this section.

Pesticide use must also meet the following requirements:

- Pest control signs shall be posted at least 48 hours prior to a pesticide application inside school district buildings as provided for under §7.148 of this title (relating to Responsibilities of Unlicensed Persons for Posting and Notification).



Pesticide use must also meet the following requirements:

- For outdoor applications made on school district grounds, the treated area must be identified at all entry points with a sign, or must be secured using a locking device, a fence or other practical barrier such as commercially available barrier caution tape, or periodically monitored to keep students out of the treated area until the allowed reentry time.
- Pesticides used on school district property shall be mixed outside of student occupied areas of buildings and grounds.
- Pesticide applications shall not be made to outdoor school grounds if such an application will expose students to physical drift of pesticide spray particles. Reasonable preventive measures shall be taken to avoid the potential of drift to occur.

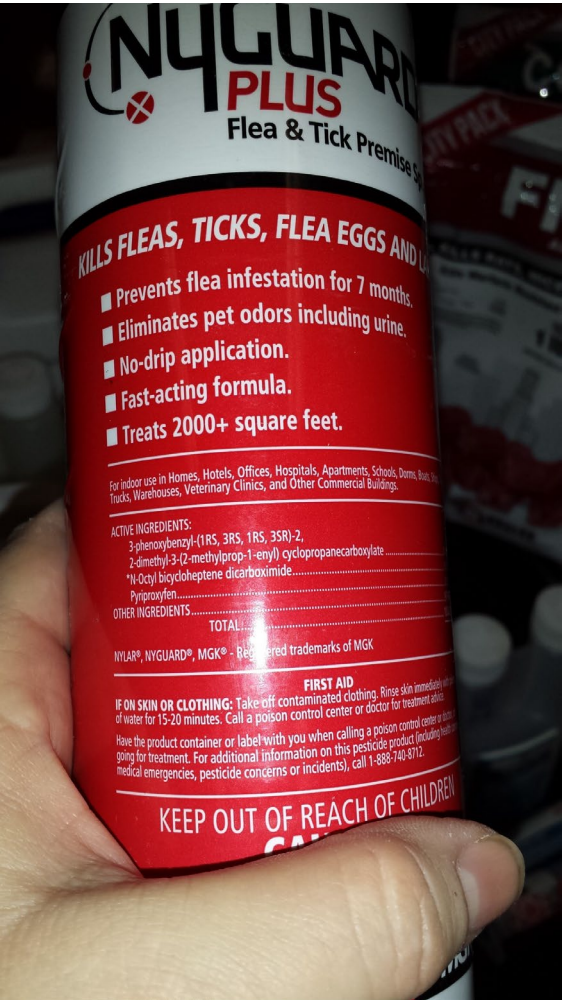


Pesticide use must also meet the following requirements:

- The use of non-pesticide control measures, non-pesticide monitoring tools and mechanical devices, such as glue boards and traps as permitted in accordance with Division 7 of this subchapter (relating to Integrated Pest Management Program for School Districts), are exempt from posting requirements.
- The use of non-pesticide tools and devices by unlicensed school district personnel, for monitoring purposes, shall be permitted.
- Monitoring by unlicensed school district personnel shall be done only as directed, under the supervision of the IPM Coordinator.



School districts are allowed to apply the following pesticides to control pests, rodents, insects and weeds at school buildings, grounds or other facilities in accordance with the approval for use and restrictions listed for each category:



Outdoor Treatment Rules: Posting, Incidental Use, and Contractor Coordination

Posting Requirements

- Signs must be posted visibly 48 hours before and after pesticide application with weather-resistant warnings to ensure safety.

Incidental Use Rule

- Minor pesticide applications are allowed by trained staff under strict limits to address small, immediate pest concerns safely.

Contractor Coordination

- Clear communication with contractors ensures proper timing, chemical use, and documentation, especially during busy athletic seasons.

Weather Considerations

- Weather factors like wind and rain are crucial to avoid pesticide drift and protect students and the environment.

Outdoor Posting

- For outdoor applications made on school district grounds, the treated area must be identified at all entry points with a sign, or must be secured using a locking device, a fence or other practical barrier such as commercially available barrier caution tape, or periodically monitored to keep students out of the treated area until the allowed reentry time.

APPLICATION



Pesticide Applied on:

By:

This sign must remain for 24 hours after pesticide application

PESTICIDE APPLICATION

KEEP



OFF

UNTIL SIGN IS REMOVED

FOR CALL 160 202 1280

When and How to Post Outdoors

- All landscape applicators are required to ensure posting
 - Green Category
 - At the time of application of product and removed once application is done
 - Yellow Category
 - At the time of application of product and sign must stay in place for 4 hours after the end of application
 - Red Category
 - At the time of application of product and sign must stay in place for 8 hours after the end of application



Emergency Waivers and Stinging/Biting Pest Response Procedures

Emergency Waiver Criteria

- Emergency pesticide use requires immediate health threat verification and documentation before approval.

Non-Chemical Response Procedures

- Priority is given to mechanical pest control and area isolation to ensure safety before chemical use.

Chemical Application Regulations

- Licensed applicators conduct chemical treatments, following strict posting and notification protocols.

Follow-Up and Prevention

- Monitoring, repairs, and thorough documentation ensure long-term pest management and compliance.

Emergency Waivers (Unable to post 48 hr in advance)

The 48-hour pre-notification requirements may be waived if an emergency exists and the customer and certified applicator sign a statement attesting to the fact that an emergency exists that requires immediate treatment.

The statement must be kept on file with the pest control use records at the business licensee's location.

Certified noncommercial applicators may attest to an emergency by signing a statement attesting to the emergency and must keep the statement on file with the pest control use records.

An emergency is defined as an imminent hazard to health and emergency treatment is limited to the localized area of the emergency.

Imminent hazard to health

- Insect related
 - Biting and/or stinging that can cause anaphylaxis
 - Cannot wait 2 days to post and treat area
 - Must have actual evidence of insect with documentation.
- Paperwork
 - Application use record
 - Emergency Waiver Form
 - Justification Approval Form

EMERGENCY WAIVER

I affirm that an emergency pest control service is required due to the imminent hazard to health or property or an imminent infestation and that only the localized area of the emergency has been treated.

Customer Name: _____

Customer Address: _____

Customer Telephone: (____) _____

Date of Treatment: _____

Target Pest: _____

Reason for Emergency Treatment: _____

Signature of Customer

Signature of Certified Applicator

A close-up photograph of a yellow and black striped wasp, likely a paper wasp, resting on a wooden surface. The wasp's body is covered in alternating yellow and black stripes. Its wings are brown and transparent, and its legs are yellow. The background is a blurred wooden texture.

Incidental Use for Schools

RULE §7.205

Incidental Use For Schools Fact Sheet

The Incidental Use For Schools Fact Sheet must be provided during pesticide instruction and training by the IPM Coordinator to each employee of the school district whose primary duty is not pest control, and whose work may include tasks subject to the exception. The IPM Coordinator must keep records of all the training conducted annually.

Primary duty is defined as a job duty that is part of a written job description or is a regularly assigned task of the employee.

Pest control use records for all incidental pesticide use application, including the reason for application and justification for emergency, must be maintained by the IPM Coordinator for a period of two years.

Incidental pesticide use in school districts is limited to insecticides that are Green and Yellow Category pesticides.

The Incidental Use For Schools Fact Sheet must contain the following text: "This fact sheet must be distributed to all employees of school districts who apply general use Green Category pesticides (or Yellow Category pesticides specific to ant, bee and wasp applications) and are not licensed by the Texas Department of Agriculture. The fact sheet, instruction and training must be provided upon initial employment by the school district's IPM Coordinator, and thereafter must be available as needed. These general use Green Category pesticides include insecticides only and involve applications made both inside and outside of structures. Incidental Use is not intended for long term or extensive pest control measures, rather emergency situations where safety of students or workers is at risk and there is insufficient time to contact a licensed applicator. Where long term pest control is required, a trained, licensed person is to make the applications. Examples of Incidental Use situations are treating fire ants in a transformer box or treatments for bees or wasps as a non-routine application to protect children or personnel. Incidental Use is defined as site-specific and incidental to the employee's primary duties. If it is part of the employee's primary duty to make applications of pesticides, that employee is required by law to obtain a Texas Department of Agriculture license, depending on the location and type of application. In all cases of incidental use, the employee should use the least hazardous, effective method of controlling pests. All applications to schools or school grounds must be in compliance with school district IPM policies. If chemicals are utilized, they must be applied in strict accordance with manufacturer labels of products being used. Applications made inconsistent with the Department's law and regulations, or applications made inconsistent with the label requirements of the product may result in an enforcement action being taken against the individual and/or the certified applicator or technician responsible. Incidental pesticide use in schools is regulated by the Texas Department of Agriculture. If you have any questions or comments, contact the Texas Department of Agriculture, phone number 1-866-918-4481 or P.O. Box 12847, Austin, Texas 78711-2847."

Summary of School-Based Pesticide Use and IPM Communication Principles

- Structured Pest Management
 - Schools need pest management systems that protect people and comply with regulations safely and effectively.
- Communication Tools
 - Effective IPM communication uses handouts, posters, newsletters, and digital messaging to ensure awareness and accountability.
- Regulatory Compliance
 - Advance notices and transparency about pesticide use fulfill regulations and keep parents informed and safe.
- Collaboration and Safety
 - Communication ensures contractor cooperation, safety during treatments, and helps reduce emergency pest control needs.