Need More Information?

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (U.S. EPA)
www.epa.gov

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION (CDPR)
www.cdpr.ca.gov

California Food & Agricultural Code (FAC)
California Code of Regulations (CCR)

STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL BOARD (SPCB)
www.pestboard.ca.gov

Business and Professions Code (BPC)

NATIONAL PESTICIDE INFORMATION CENTER (NPIC)
www.npic.orst.edu

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS
www.ipm.ucdavis.edu

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Department of
Agricultural Commissioner /
Weights & Measures

acwm.lacounty.gov

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This information is available in alternative formats.

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Department of Agricultural Commissioner/ Weights & Measures

PEST CONTROL WORK AND PESTICIDE SAFETY: CHOOSE & USE WISELY

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Pesticide Safety is Everyone's Business

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Whether you are a homeowner using pesticides on your own property, a business deciding to allow employees to apply pesticides or hiring a pest control company, there are important facts that should be known BEFORE pesticides are applied ANYWHERE. The following are some steps to help the homeowner, business or public agency choose and use wisely when pesticides are involved.

#1 Consider IPM First
Healthy Schools Act of 2000

"Integrated pest management is a widely accepted approach to pest management that results in effective suppression of pest populations while minimizing human health and environmental hazards. Pesticides that pose the least possible hazard and are effective in a manner that minimizes risks to people, property, and the environment are used only after careful monitoring indicates they are needed according to pre-established guidelines and treatment thresholds."

#2 Pesticide Registered With U.S. EPA & CDPR
FAC § 12811

All legal pesticides are rigorously tested and approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). Then, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) reviews these pesticides before registering them for use in the state. Please be aware of this when purchasing pesticides online, because some may not be legal to be used in California.

California Department of Pesticide Regulation
Pesticide Enforcement Branch

#3 Pest Control Company Licensed and Registered
FAC § 11701, 11032, 15201, 15204

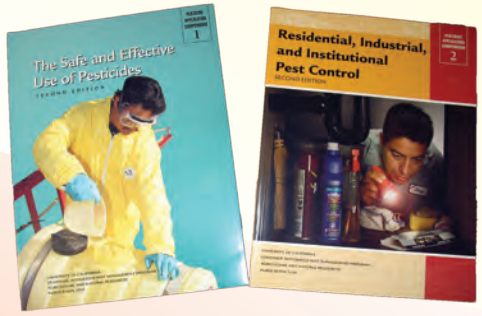
Any pest control company must have a license issued by CDPR for agricultural pest control (landscape, gopher control, etc.) or be licensed by the Structural Pest Control Board (SPCB) for structural pest control (household pests & wood-eating pests). Some companies possess both licenses. You can verify a company's license by visiting the websites listed. The company is also required to register with the local County Agricultural Commissioner (CAC) where they plan to perform pest control work.

#4 Inspect Site & Notify
BPC § 8538

The pest control company should inspect the site prior to treatment. It is also required to notify the consumer of the pesticide(s) to be used at the site prior to the application.

5 Prepare Site and Enter When It Is Safe

Whether a homeowner or a business operator, you should know the steps to be taken to protect people, pets and food during an application. Your printed notification will tell you what needs to be bagged/removed from the site. It will also tell you when it is safe to re-enter the area after the application is complete.

6 Work Done In A Safe and Professional Manner

The applicator who actually applies the pesticide to your property must be licensed/trained, wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE), apply according to label directions, and be aware of any environmental concerns.