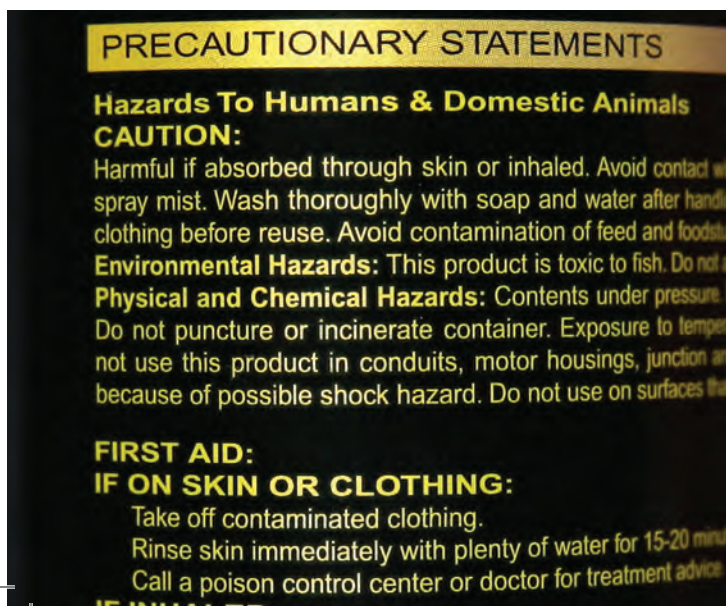


What is a Pesticide?

Pesticides are chemicals designed to be harmful to a target pest and are purposely introduced into the environment to do their job of managing insects, plant diseases, weeds, rodents, or other pests. Fertilizers are not pesticides, although some products may also contain pesticides.

The Label is the Law

Be sure to read and follow the pesticide label, as pesticides can be toxic to humans and the environment. Use the required personal protective equipment (PPE) when applying pesticides. If no PPE requirements are listed on the label, gloves and safety glasses are almost always required by California regulations.



Licensing Requirements

If you want the option to apply pesticides incidentally as part of a maintenance gardening business, you have three requirements:

1. A Maintenance Gardener Qualified Applicator Certificate in category Q (QAC-Q) from the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). This certification only allows incidental use of general use pesticides, not restricted pesticides.
2. A Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business License from DPR.
3. Register your business in the counties where you intend to work.

Contact us

If you have questions or need more information, please contact your local county agricultural commissioner's office or call toll-free 1-877-378-5463 (1-87PestLine).

Information

www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/maintgardeners.htm



Report pesticide incidents on DPR's CASPIR app. It's available at the Apple and Google app stores.

PML 02/E 2720



MAINTENANCE GARDENERS & PESTICIDE SAFETY

California Environmental Protection Agency
dpr Department of
Pesticide Regulation



Best Pre-Application Practices

- Employees must be trained and provided required personal protective equipment (PPE) and information for the closest emergency medical center.
- Evaluate weather conditions.
- Know the type of pest you wish to control.
- Evaluate pest management options that are best for human health and the environment.
- Inspect application equipment.
- Use a measuring device when mixing/loading a pesticide; **never exceed the maximum rate.**

Best Application Practices

- Do not mix, load or apply without wearing required PPE.
- Do not use restricted materials if you have only a Maintenance Gardener Category Q certificate.
- Do not apply in adverse weather (i.e. rain, wind).
- Do not over-spray.
- Do not apply when people, pets or beneficial insects are around.

What are beneficial insects?

Beneficial insects are those that provide natural control against pests.



Best Post-Application Practices

- Change and wash clothing after applying pesticides.
- Wash and shower as soon as possible.
- Do not launder contaminated clothing with regular laundry.

Best Storage Practices

- Keep pesticides in their original containers.
- Do not leave pesticides unattended (this includes back of truck or on a sidewalk).
- Keep pesticides in locked compartments (but not in the passenger cab).
- Do not store pesticides inside the home.
- Keep application equipment in safe working condition and secured to vehicles during transportation.

Best Disposal Practices

- Do not pour leftover pesticide down the drain.
- Properly dispose of empty containers according to label.