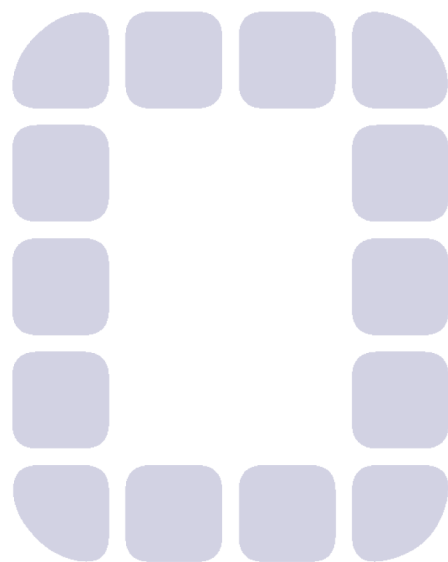
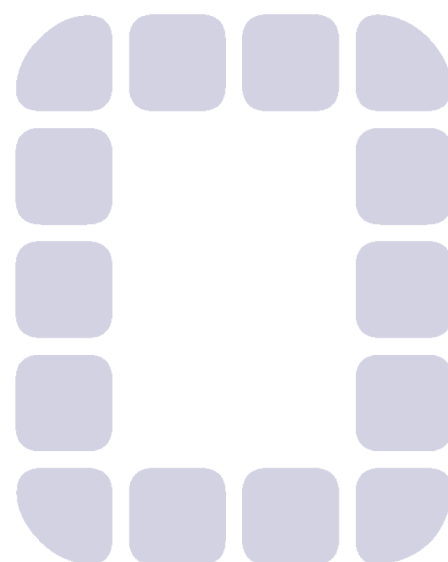
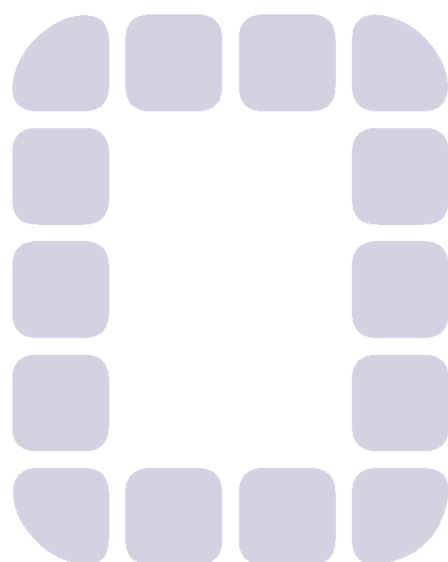
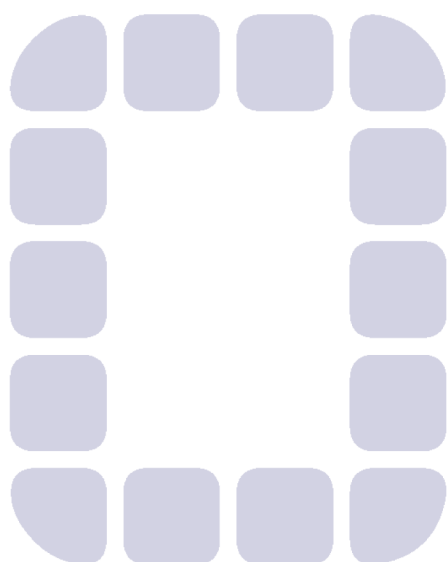


Quick Contacts for the use of Pesticides in WA

A Web Page RESOURCE

Department of Health February 2011



Quick Contacts for the use of Pesticides in WA

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WHAT ARE PESTICIDES?

Pesticides are chemicals that are used to protect crops and ornamental plants, livestock, pets, building structures and people. These chemicals control the growth and spread of weeds, pests and plant diseases. The term pesticides include: insecticides, fungicides, algicides, herbicides and microbial agents used to kill organisms defined as pests.

Pesticides are used daily on farms, in homes and gardens, and in parks and reserves to control insects, weeds and other pests. Pesticides are used to control disease-carrying insects such as mosquitoes.

Using pesticides responsibly

The safe use of pesticides has improved due to:

The development of more target-specific pesticides
The removal of older, environmentally persistent pesticides
Stricter government controls over access and use of pesticides
Improved education and training to reduce the risk of adverse effects, misuse and misapplication
Improved labels and directions for use of pesticides

The label contains information needed for the safe use of that pesticide.

- Always read the label prior to purchasing, to make sure you have the right pesticide for the job and the right amount. (Applying more is not better).
- Follow label instructions.
- Use protective clothing and appropriate precautions when preparing and applying pesticides.
- Transport and store pesticides according to the label directions.
- Store out of reach of children and pets. Never use a different container to store left-over pesticides.
- Dispose of unused pesticides and the containers according to the instructions on the label.

Common misconceptions about applying pesticide

Applying more pesticide or under-diluting a pesticide results in using more pesticide than is recommended on the label and this does not destroy the pest any quicker.

This practice is more costly, increases the risk to the user and to bystanders (members of the family and visitors to the areas treated) and has a greater potential to contaminate the environment.

Frequently asked questions 20 FAQs

| | |
|---|---|
| | CONTACT |
| You are building a house and would like to know more about what pest control chemicals may be used. | your builder or the Local Council |
| You are worried about what's being sprayed on your property because you're pregnant. | Department of Health |
| You think your toddler drank or ate something dangerous. | POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE 13 11 26 |
| You would like to know how poisonous a pesticide is. | Department of Health |
| You would like some information on the safe use of pesticides. | Department of Health (for home use) Department of Agriculture and Food (for on-farm use) |
| You are concerned that your children have been playing on an oval that has been sprayed with pesticide. | Local Council |
| You are concerned that spray drift from a neighbouring farm is affecting agricultural produce on your property. | Department of Agriculture and Food |
| You are concerned that spray drift has affected your health | Local Council Department of Health APVMA |
| Your neighbour used a pesticide that has killed plants on your property. | Local Council |
| You want to report an adverse health experience after the use of a pesticide. | APVMA - Adverse Experience Reporting Program |
| You, or an employee, want to get a pesticide operator's licence. | Department of Health |
| You are located near a public water source area and you want to apply a pesticide. | Department of Water |
| You have a concern about emissions from a pesticide manufacturer or waste treatment facility. | Department of Environment and Conservation |

| | |
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| <p>You have a concern about the way in which pesticide wastes are being transported.</p> | <p>Department of Environment and Conservation Department of Mines and Petroleum (Dangerous Goods Branch)</p> |
| <p>You want to dispose of leftover pesticides.</p> | <p>Local Council (for home disposal) (ask about Hazardous Waste Collections) Professional Waste Removal Contractor (for industrial wastes) ChemCLEAR or DrumMuster (for farm disposal)</p> |
| <p>You have had your property treated for a pest, but the treatment has not been effective and you believe the technician has not done the job properly.</p> | <p>Department of Commerce (consumer hotline)</p> |
| <p>You think your employer is not providing you with the proper protective clothing or safety equipment.</p> | <p>Department of Commerce (WorkSafe)</p> |
| <p>You believe your health is being affected when using pesticides as an employee in a workplace.</p> | <p>Department of Commerce (WorkSafe)</p> |
| <p>You are unsure of the requirements for storing pesticides?</p> | <p>Department of Health (for home storage or business registration) Department of Agriculture and Food (for on-farm storage)</p> |
| <p>You are unsure of the requirements for transporting pesticides on public roads.</p> | <p>Department of Mines and Petroleum (Dangerous Goods Branch)</p> |

HOW ARE PESTICIDES REGULATED IN AUSTRALIA

The role of the Australian Government

The Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is an Australian Government body responsible for national registration of pesticides. Before a pesticide can be used in Australia, it must be registered by the APVMA. This means that it is thoroughly assessed to ensure the safety of the user, the public and the environment, when used according to the directions on the label.

The APVMA also has an Adverse Experience Reporting Program, where anyone can report unintended or unexpected effects of pesticides on animals, humans or the environment when the pesticide has been used according to label directions. The information collected is used to develop better practices, to prevent avoidable side effects and to continually improve pesticide formulations.

The role of the Western Australian Government

The WA Government is responsible for the control of use of registered pesticides in Western Australia, to ensure that use is appropriate, in accordance with the label requirements and has no untoward effects on humans, animals, agriculture or the environment.

The Department of Health, the Department of Agriculture and Food, the Department of Commerce (WorkSafe Division), the Department of Water, and the Department of Mines and Petroleum (Resources Safety Division) share the responsibility for control of the use of pesticides. The Department of Environment and Conservation is responsible for pollution events and may also play a vital role in the emergency response to pesticide contamination or clean-up and containment response.

Representatives from these Departments, and from the Chemistry Centre WA, are members of the Pesticide Advisory Committee (PeAC), which meets regularly to advise the Government on pesticide policy and regulatory issues.

The role of Local Government

Local government Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) can play an important role in the investigation of pesticide misuse affecting public health. They are able to react quickly to resolve matters of this kind. EHOs may also be contacted for advice where there is a proposed change in land use

Local government should exercise great care in allowing the incursion of residential land to abut land currently zoned for agricultural purposes. This is a matter of continual conflict where the activities of agriculture, in particular the application of pesticides can adversely affect human health and also impact on the amenity of an area. Spray drift, or vapour containing pesticides, can travel significant distance and establishing minimal buffer zones is often ineffective. Developers and local government should undertake a risk assessment of the possible public health impacts pesticides may have on land usage, prior to supporting any proposal for rezoning agricultural land for residential purposes.

ROLE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:

- Regulates the safe use of pesticides through the Health (Pesticides) Regulations 1956, where it affects human health
- Regulates the supply and use of poisons through the Poisons Act 1964
- Licenses Pest Management Technicians and registered businesses
- Provides some training and guidelines for the pest management industry
- Provides information and advice on public health control programs
- Provides toxicological advice on the human health aspects of pesticide contamination

The Department of Health works closely with the WA Local Government Association and Environmental Health Officers.

Legislation:

Health Act 1911

Health (Pesticides) Regulations 2011

Poisons Act 1964

Poisons Regulations 1965

Guides

Guidelines for the safe use of pesticides in non-agricultural workplaces

<http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/cproot/2158/2/Guidelines%20for%20the%20safe%20use%20of%20pesticides%20in%20non-agricultural%20workplaces.pdf>

A guide to the management of pesticides in local government pest control programs in Western Australia

<http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/cproot/2663/2/A%20guide%20to%20the%20management%20of%20pesticides%20in%20local%20government%20pest%20control%20programs%20in%20Western%20Australia.pdf>

A guide to the use of pesticides in Western Australia

<http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/cproot/3520/2/A%20guide%20to%20the%20use%20of%20pesticides%20in%20WA%202010.pdf>

Note: The above guides are non mandatory and are available on the WA Dept of Health web site. The introduction of the new Public Health Bill and associated legislation may lead to the repeal or modification of some of these Acts and Regulations.

Department of Health Contacts:

Environmental Health Directorate

Phone (08) 9388 4999

Fax (08) 9388 4902

Email ehinfo@health.wa.gov.au

Pesticide Safety

Phone (08) 9285 5500

Fax (08) 9383 1819

Email pesticidesafety@health.wa.gov.au

Pharmaceutical Services

Phone (08) 9222 6883

Fax (08) 9222 2463

Email poisons@health.wa.gov.au

Web page <http://www.health.wa.gov.au/pharmacy/home/>

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD:

Regulates some aspects of the use of pesticides and veterinary medicines in agriculture, including the management of residue affected land and produce,
Provides information on the control of pests and diseases in animals and plants, including the use of pesticides and other chemicals on farms,
Regulates the control of declared plants and animals in agricultural and pastoral lands.

The Department of Agriculture and Food works closely with the Department of Health, the APVMA in Canberra, and pesticide safety training organisations.

Current Legislation:

Agriculture and Related Resources (Spraying Restrictions) Regulations 1979
Aerial Spraying Control Act 1966 (and Regulations)
Agricultural Practices (Disputes) Act 1996
Agricultural Produce (Chemical Residues) Act 1983
Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007

Department of Agriculture and Food Contacts:

Head Office

Phone (08) 9368 3333

Fax (08) 9474 2405

Email enquires@agric.wa.gov.au

Website <http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/>

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION:

Regulates waste management sites, contaminated sites, and air and water quality, and illegal discharge and pollution, under the Environmental Protection Act 1986,
Regulates pesticide manufacturing facilities,
Regulates the transport of liquid chemical wastes including pesticide wastes,
Investigates and may take enforcement action if there is evidence of an inappropriate pesticide application which has caused environmental harm or there has been a pesticide spill which has or may cause pollution or environmental harm
Provides guidance on chemical storage and disposal

The Department of Environment and Conservation works closely with the Environmental Protection Authority and other State Departments.

Current Legislation:

Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations 2004
Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004
Environmental Protection Act 1986
Environmental Protection Regulations 1987
Swan River Trust Act 1988

Department of Environment and Conservation Contacts:

Environmental Regulation Division

Phone (08) 6467 5000
Fax (08) 6467 5562

EMERGENCY POLLUTION RESPONSE 1300 784 782

Website <http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/index.php>

Controlled Waste <http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/content/category/32/756/1580/>

THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER:

Protects existing and future Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs) these include Underground Water Pollution Control Areas, Water Reserves and Catchment Areas.

Provides guidance on land use compatibility in PDWSAs

Provides guidance on chemical storage, handling and disposal in PDWSAs

The Department of water works closely with the Water Corporation and other State government departments.

Current Legislation:

Metropolitan Water Supply Sewerage and Drainage Act 1909

Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914

Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947

Department of Water Contacts:

Head Office

Phone (08) 6364 7600

Fax (08) 6364 7601

Email drinkingwater@water.wa.gov.au

Website <http://www.water.wa.gov.au/>

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (WORKSAFE DIVISION):

Regulates the workplace to ensure the safety and health of people at work
Responds to requests to investigate possible breaches of the legislation
Provides information to employers and employees on occupational safety matters
Promotes awareness of occupational safety matters to the community

Current Legislation:

- 1. Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984*
- 2. Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996*

WorkSafe Contacts:

Head Office

Phone: 1300 30 78 77

Email online@commerce.wa.gov.au

Website <http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/index.htm>

THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM:

Regulates the storage, handling and transport of dangerous goods to minimise the risk to people property and the environment.
Responds to dangerous goods incidents and emergencies.
Investigates possible breaches of the legislation.
Contributes to the development and implementation of national dangerous goods safety policy and legislation.
Provides information and promotes awareness of dangerous goods safety matters to industry, government and the community.

Current Legislation:

Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004
Dangerous Goods Safety Regulations 2007

Department of Mines and Petroleum Contacts:

Head Office

Phone (08) 9358 8036

Fax (08) 9358 8188

E-mail dgsb@dmp.wa.gov.au

Website <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/>

CHEMISTRY CENTRE WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Provides chemical analytical support to the government, industry, academia and the community

Conducts research into chemical analytical methods

Provides advice on the chemistry of pesticides and other chemicals, and how they behave in soil, water, air and other substrates

Assists other government agencies with the management of chemical spillages, residues in foods, and environmental contamination

ChemCentre Contacts:

Head Office

Phone (08) 9422 9800

Fax (08) 9422 9801

E-mail enquiries@chemcentre.wa.gov.au

Website <http://www.chemcentre.wa.gov.au>

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) evaluates the safety of drugs and other chemicals

Web site www.tga.gov.au

Food Standards Australia contains information on pesticides residue in food

Web site www.foodstandards.gov.au

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)

Phone (02) 6272 5852

Email: contact@apvma.gov.au

Web site <http://www.apvma.gov.au>

Adverse Experience Reporting Program

Phone (02) 6272 3651

Fax (02) 6271 6442

Safe Work Australia

This independent statutory agency is responsible for improving occupational safety and health and workers' compensation arrangements across Australia.

Website www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au

Safe Work Australia information on Australian Agricultural & Rural topics:
<http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/swa/IndustryInformation/AgricultureForestryFishing/>

ChemClear This chemical industry organisation collects unwanted rural chemicals by providing a safe and easy collection and disposal service for all chemical users within Australia.

Website <http://www.chemclear.com.au>

DrumMuster A chemical industry organisation, in conjunction with cooperating local councils, that provides a pesticide container disposal service.

Website www.drummuster.com.au

AgSAFE Accreditation & Training program applies to the safe storage, handling, transport and sale of agricultural and veterinary chemicals from the place of manufacture through to the point of sale

Website www.agsafe.com.au/agsafe

Delivering a **Healthy WA**

