



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
**Department of Food and Agriculture
Pesticide Bureau**

251 Causeway St. Boston, MA 02114
Phone: 617-626-1781 Fax: 617-626-1850 Web: www.mass.gov/dfa



Consumer Information Bulletin

INDOOR APPLICATIONS

Massachusetts “Regulations Relative to the Commercial Application of Pesticides to Indoor Setting” (333 CMR 13.10) requires you to receive this notice prior to a pesticide application

Q. Are indoor pesticide applications safe?

- A.** All pesticides must be treated with caution. Pesticides are intended to be specifically poisonous to a target pest. (insects, weeds, mold, fungus, etc) but if used improperly may also be harmful to other living things, including humans and pets.

Some people such as children, elderly citizens, pregnant women and those with health problems may be sensitive to low levels of chemicals and should avoid or minimize exposure to pesticides. Medical questions should be referred to your physician or one of the contacts listed at the end of this sheet.

Q. How can I minimize my exposure to pesticides?

- A.** Some pesticide labels specify precautions, which, by law, must be taken before the pesticide can be applied. Your pest management professional should take steps to minimize or eliminate pesticide exposure. It is important that you follow all recommendations that the pest management professional prescribes.

Additional precautionary measures that could be taken are:

- *Know the location where the pesticide will be applied.
- *Cover or refrigerate edible products.
- *Remove pets, their food and water bowls, and toys away from the area that is to be treated.
- *Plan applications times when premises won't be occupied. If possible plan to stay away for a few hours afterward (minimum of four hours is a good general rule).
- *Move items away from the area being treated.
- *Ventilate as much as possible during and following a pesticide application.
- *Do not walk on or touch the treated area until it is dry.
- *Ask the applicator where bait stations and rodenticides have been placed.

Q. Are there methods for controlling pests without having to use pesticides?

- A.** Integrated Pest Management techniques may be available for the pest problem that you have. Discuss your options with your pest management professional or look on the Departments website www.mass.gov/dfa for further information regarding IPM. A reputable and experienced pest management professional will be able to recommend IPM methods for your particular pest problem.

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Q. If I live in an apartment, how do I know when a pesticide application will be made?

A. It is required that you receive notification between seven (7) days and forty-eighty (48) hours BEFORE any routine commercial application of pesticides that includes the following information:

- *Name and phone number of the pest control company
- *Purpose of application
- *Name of potential pesticides, active ingredient and EPA Registration Number
- *Proposed date and approximate time of application
- *Address and phone number of the Pesticide Bureau and Poison Control

Q. What do I have a right to know regarding an application?

A. If you ask, the applicator or the pest control company must provide you with the following information on previously conducted applications:

- *Specific location(s) treated including location(s) of rodenticide bait stations
- *Date and time of applications
- *Brand name, active ingredient, EPA Registration Number of pesticide used and a copy of the label

If you ask to be pre-notified about any future pesticide applications, the applicator or employer must provide pre-notification to you. It will include:

- *Date of next treatment
- *Locations to be treated
- *Potential pesticide(s) including active ingredient that may be used

Notification may take any form (phone call, letter, etc.).

Q. What if I have a question or a problem?

A. The Department of Food and Agriculture regulates the use of pesticides in Massachusetts. It is a violation of the law to use a pesticide inconsistent with the label directions. All commercial pesticide applicators must have a valid Pesticide Applicator License issued by the Department. Consumers should check to insure that the applicator is licensed or certified. If you suspect that your applicator is unlicensed or a misuse has occurred please contact the Department of Food and Agriculture. If you have any further questions or concerns about pesticides or the application of pesticides you should contact your lawn care applicator or you can contact the following:

- >> Massachusetts Pesticide Bureau (617)626-1700
- >> EPA Pesticide hotline (800)858-7378
- >> Massachusetts Poison Information Center (617)232-2120
- >> Department of Public Health/Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment (617)624-5757

If you have a contractual problem with a lawn care company, please contact the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office of Consumer Affairs at (617)727-8400 or the Better Business Bureau at (617)426-9000 and (413)734-3114.

Massachusetts Pesticide Bureau: www.state.ma.us/dfa/legal/regs/pesticides_regulations_list.htm
Massachusetts Pesticide Regulations: www.state.ma.us/dfa/legal/regs/pesticides_regulations_list.htm
EPA Pesticide Site: www.epa.gov/ebtpages/pesticides.html
Exttoxnet – variety of information about pesticides: <http://ace.orst.edu/info/exttoxnet/>