

NOTIFICATION

Sample Letter to Parents: Beginning of School Year

This is a sample of a typical notice that could be provided to parents and staff at the beginning of the school year:

Dear Parent:

An Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach for controlling insects, rodents and weeds is used at xyz school. Our IPM approach focuses on making the school building and grounds an unfavorable habitat for these pests by removing food and water sources and eliminating their hiding and breeding places. We accomplish this through routine cleaning and maintenance. We routinely monitor the school building and grounds to detect any pests that are present. The pest monitoring team consists of our building maintenance, office, and teaching staff and includes our students. Pest sightings are reported to our IPM coordinator who evaluates the "pest problem" and determines the appropriate pest management techniques to use to address the problem. The techniques can include increased sanitation, modifying storage practices, sealing entry points, physically removing the pest, etc.

We only use chemicals (pesticides) when absolutely necessary to eliminate a pest problem. In accordance with the Children and Family Protection Act, the school will use the least toxic products possible. Applications will be made only when unauthorized persons do not have access to the area(s) being treated. These areas will be secured against access as necessary for the period specified and taking into account all precautions found on the pesticide product label.

We will provide all school staff, students and their parents with notice of any use of any chemicals used to control insects, rodents, or weeds during the year. We will provide notice in writing at least 24 hours prior to the application. Notice of pesticide applications made to control emergency pest problems will be provided as soon as possible after the application. The notice will include the following information:

- Who will make the pesticide application.
- Name of the pesticide to be used
- EPA Registration number
- Purpose for making the pesticide application
- Area to be treated
- Date and approximate time of the scheduled application

Sincerely,

IPM Coordinator

Frequently Asked Questions: Posting

On sight information about pesticide applications will help reduce pesticide exposure, and for some pesticide applications, posting of pesticide application information is required by state law (xxxx). Students and other school staff can learn to avoid treated areas when they are posted.

When is posting required for pesticide applications?

Landscape pesticide applications made by any commercial applicator (school custodial staff included) must be posted with warning signs before making an application. Landscape pesticide applications include all insect, fungus, and weed killer applications (including weed and feed products) to turf, mulch or gravel beds, flowers, shrubbery, and trees on school property.

Where must signs be placed when posting is required?

Warning signs must be posted so that they are clearly visible from each point of entry into the treated landscape. Warning signs should be visible from roads, sidewalks, driveways, doorways, alleys, or adjacent yards. Warning signs are not required in areas where a fence, wall, hedge, or similar structure effectively prevents human access to a treated landscape. If an area is fenced, warning signs must be posted near the gate area.

How long must signs remain in place?

Warning signs must be posted before the application. Many commercial applicators post just before starting an application. Signs must be posted even if the pesticide label does not state a prescribed re-entry interval. Signs must remain in place until sunset of the day following the application. Even where labels state that you should "stay off until dry", the signs must remain posted until sunset the next day.

Signs posted for pesticides that have a prescribed reentry interval (e.g. 24 hours, 48 hours) must remain in place for the entire reentry interval, and the date on which the reentry interval expires must be written on the sign.

All signs must indicate the date on which they may be removed.

What information must warning signs contain?

Warning signs must be at least 4 inches by 5 inches, have a white background with red lettering and be attached to a stable supporting device. The use of vinyl flagging material is permitted as long as the information on the sign is visible when posted. Vinyl flags that fold over themselves when posted are unacceptable. Signs must be professionally printed, only the date on which the sign may be removed may be written by hand. Warning signs must contain the wording:

"PESTICIDE APPLICATION PLEASE KEEP OFF" in not less than 36-point type and in not less than 9-point type "DO NOT REMOVE UNTIL SUNSET ON [insert date] FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS APPLICATION OR ANY FUTURE APPLICATIONS CALL [insert name and telephone number the applicator's employer or business] THIS SIGN IS REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION (608) 224-LAWN"

What information must be provided to the public upon request?

Persons wanting additional information about a specific landscape pesticide application may request information from either a commercial applicator (for hire or not for hire) or commercial application business. The applicator or business must notify the requester that the following information is available:

- The complete name and address of the person making the application or the business entity (e.g., school)
- The common chemical or brand name of each pesticide applied and the EPA registration number of that pesticide.
- The concentration and total quantity of each pesticide applied, or the amount of pesticide active ingredient applied per unit area, and the total area treated.
- The date and approximate time of application.
- Any post-application precautions stated on the pesticide label including precautions related to re-entry into or use of treated areas.
- A copy of the pesticide label for each pesticide applied.

The applicator or business may provide the information requested either orally or in writing (if a pesticide label is requested, a direct copy of the label must be provided). The commercial applicator or business may require the requester to pay reasonable copying and postage costs before providing a copy of a pesticide label.