Pest control around the home

Have you checked that your pest controller has a licence?

For peace of mind, search the NSW Environment Protection Authority’s public register and ask to see their licence.

This fact sheet provides advice for householders, property managers and strata managers on steps to take when engaging a pest controller, also known as a pest management technician.

Check a pest controller is licensed

By law, a person carrying out prescribed pesticide work for a fee or reward must hold a licence issued by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

To obtain a licence from the EPA, a pest controller must undergo training and keep their qualifications up to date. A pest controller must renew their licence every five years.

Licensed pest controllers must ensure they only use registered pesticides covered by a label or permit, and take all measures to avoid harming other people, animals or damaging the environment.

Search the EPA’s public register

To check a pest controller is licensed in NSW, search the EPA’s public register for records on pesticide licences and permits. You can access the register online at https://apps.epa.nsw.gov.au/prrdlapp/plpr.aspx.

You can search using any, or a combination, of terms, such as a licence holder’s name or a licence number.

Ask to see a pest controller’s licence

To double-check a pest controller is licensed in NSW, ask to see their licence before agreeing to any pest control work around the home.

Check they have a photo licence card. Also check that the photo on the licence matches the person carrying out the work and that the expiry date on the licence has not passed.

If you can’t find a person or licence, or a pest controller is unable to produce their licence, contact the Environment Line on 131 555.

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中文 / Chinese - Simplified

您查看除虫师是否具备执照了吗？
请访问新南威尔士州环境保护局（NSW Environment Protection Authority）的公共登记册。
查看他们的执照。

العربية / Arabic

هل تحققتم من أن اختصاصي مكافحة الآفات الخاص بك لديه تراخيص؟
قموا بزيارة السجل العام لهيئة حماية البيئة في نيو ساوث ويلز لإطلاعكم على تراخيصهم.

Tiếng Việt / Vietnamese

Bạn đã kiểm tra xem nhân viên diệt trùng có giấy phép chưa?
Vào trang mạng Đăng kiểm Bảo Vệ Môi Trường của NSW.
Yêu cầu được xem giấy phép hành nghề của họ.
Ask for the full product name and safety data sheet for the pesticide to be used

Ask the pest controller for the full product name of the pesticide to be used.

On request, a person carrying out prescribed pesticide work must provide the relevant safety data sheets for the pesticide to any person who is required to be notified.

Safety data sheets provide vital information about how a pesticide may be used safely.

The full product name and the safety data sheet will assist you if you are concerned that your health may have been affected by a pesticide or if you think pesticides may have been misused.

Potential health effects of pesticide exposure

Pesticides can be dangerous if incorrectly applied or managed. If you engage a pest controller, it is important to understand the risks associated with pesticide exposure.

The risk of pesticide use is dependent upon two factors: the hazard (toxicity) of the pesticide and the amount of exposure to that pesticide.

In other words, Risk = Hazard x Exposure

The level of hazard reflects how toxic or poisonous a chemical is. Read the labels to find out which products are poisonous. For example, “Caution” means low potential for causing harm, “Dangerous Poison” means high potential for causing harm.

Exposure occurs when a pesticide is inhaled, ingested, or touched and increases with concentration and/or the time over which the exposure occurs. Pesticides can negatively affect your health after a single exposure or repeated exposure over time.

It is important to know that pesticides with low toxicity can still be high-risk if exposure occurs frequently. Pesticides can also be high-risk if they are very toxic at low levels of exposure.

Take precautions to avoid pesticide exposure

Consider non-chemical pest control measures. The key is to make your house and garden unattractive to pests.

If you do engage a pest controller, it is important to understand the steps you can take beforehand to minimise exposure around the home. Steps include:

- prepare your home by covering kitchen utensils, bench surfaces or removing furniture
- cover or remove bird cages and fish tanks and relocate other pets before pesticides are used
- use the smallest amount of pesticide possible
- leave the treatment area while the pesticide is taking effect. Keep sensitive people such as young children, pregnant women and elderly people away
- before you re-enter the treatment area, ensure the area has dried and has been well-ventilated
- do not eat, drink or smoke in the treatment area until it is safe to do so

Pesticide exposure, poisoning, or emergencies

If you develop symptoms after exposure to pesticides, you should:

- in an emergency, call triple zero (000)
- contact a doctor immediately or your nearest hospital
- call the 24/7 NSW Poisons Information Centre on 131 126

Where can I find out more information?

If you have any questions or concerns about pesticides, call the Environment Line on 131 555