

Pest management technicians

This fact sheet explains how to comply with the NSW Pesticide Regulation 2017 to ensure minimal risk of harm to the community and the environment.

Notification of pesticide use

Sensitive places

Sensitive places are schools or preschools, kindergartens, childcare centres, community health centres and nursing homes.

A technician must provide at least five working days' notice to any neighbouring sensitive place when a job requires the spraying or ground injection of liquid pesticides, or outdoor fumigation, within 20 metres of a sensitive place. Less notice may be required in emergency situations.

Notices regarding the treatment should be directed towards the person in charge of the sensitive place and can be given in person, by phone, email, post or letterbox drop. More information is available on the EPA website: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/pesticides

Multiple-occupancy residential complexes

These include units, flats, townhouses, villas, and long-stay caravan parks. Before applying pesticide to common areas (such as pathways, gardens, lawns, foyers, hallways, share laundries, car parks, roof cavities and sub-floor areas) the technician must provide the person responsible for arranging the pesticide application with details of the treatment so they can tell residents. They must give notice either in person or by email, letterbox drop or post to all residents at least five working days

before the job. The technician must provide details of the treatment while the job is being done.

Notices to sensitive places should include:

- the full name of the pesticide
- the reason why the pesticide is being used
- the proposed date(s), or range of dates
- where the pesticide will be used
- any re-entry requirements that are on the pesticide label or permit
- the contact details of the pest management technician applying the pesticide, or their office.

Before starting, the technician should receive confirmation, preferably in writing, that the residents have been given five working days' notice. Less notice may be required in emergency situations

The relevant safety data sheets must be provided as soon as practicable, if any person provided with the notification requests them.

If the treatment is postponed beyond the notification date, a new notice must be issued.

Day of treatment

When treating common areas of multiple-occupancy residential complexes, notice is required on the day of treatment. Before starting, the technician must put up notices describing the job. These need to be placed at all exit and entry points to the common areas being treated and on the complex's main notice board. This notice must contain the same details as the pre-treatment notice.

The notices must remain there until the area is safe to use again. The relevant safety data sheets must be provided as soon as

practicable, if the person provided with the notification requests them. It is recommended that the technician has copies available.

Notice of baiting programs

When a baiting program (for example, for termites or rodents) is due to start in the common areas of multi-dwelling residential complexes, the technician is only required to give notice the first time they place pesticides in one or more baiting stations. There is no need to give notice of subsequent visits. However, the technician must provide the person responsible for arranging the service information about the duration and location of baits, so this information can be included when they give prior notice to residents.

Emergency situations

This is when there is an infestation of biting or dangerous pests such as wasps, bees, venomous spiders, rodents or bird mites that may pose immediate health or safety risks. The technician will not need to provide five days' notice but is required to provide notice before starting the job and to record the circumstances of the emergency.

Record keeping

As part of the Regulation, if you use pesticides or engage in pest control as part of your job, you must make a record of every pesticide application. This doesn't apply if:

- you apply pesticides to treat water in a swimming pool or spa
- you use non-chemical means to control pests (for example, physical termite barriers or traps)

You must make your records within 48 hours of application and retain them for three years.

Information you need to record:

- the full product name of the pesticide
- the situation in which you used the pesticide, the rate of application, and quantity of the pesticide applied
- a description of the equipment used
- the property address and the area where the pesticide was used
- the date and the time of the application
- the name, address and contact details of the person who applied the pesticide and the owner or the person who manages or controls the property
- weather conditions, including wind speed and any other relevant conditions, if the pesticide was applied outdoors and through the air using spray equipment.

What happens if I do not comply?

Penalties may apply if you can't prove that notification was provided, or if you fail to keep the required records. On-the-spot fines of \$1,000 for corporations or \$500 for individuals may apply. Court-imposed fines of up to \$44,000 may apply for more serious offences.

Licensing

Pest management technicians must have a licence issued by the EPA which must be renewed every 1 or 5 years or a recognised interstate licence. Pest management businesses have a responsibility under work health and safety laws to ensure their staff and customers are not affected by pesticides.

Where can I get more information?

Call the EPA's Environment line on 131 555

Visit www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/pesticides