

Pest management technicians

This fact sheet is for pest management technicians and people employed by pest management businesses who undertake pest control and fumigation activities. It provides guidance on how to comply with the notification and record keeping requirements of the NSW Pesticides Regulation 2009 (the Regulation) and ensure that your work practices minimise risk of harm to the community and the environment.

Notification of pesticide use

Sensitive places

When a job requires the spraying or injecting of liquid pesticides directly into the ground in the outdoors of any property that is within 20 metres of a common boundary with a sensitive place, the pest management technician is required to provide at least five working days notice to the neighbouring sensitive place. Less notice may be required in emergency situations. Sensitive places are schools or preschools, kindergartens, childcare centres, community health centres and nursing homes.

Notice regarding the treatment should be directed towards the person in charge of the neighbouring sensitive place (i.e. school principal, director or manager). It can be given in person, by phone, email, fax, post or letter-box drop. Information resources to help you identify sensitive places are available on the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW (DECCW) website at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pesticides/.

Multiple occupancy residential complexes

Multiple occupancy residential complexes include units, flats, townhouses, villas, and long-stay caravan parks with three or more residences. Before applying pesticide treatments to common areas of these complexes (such as pathways, gardens, lawns, foyers, hallways, share laundries, car parks, roof cavities and sub-floor areas) the technician will need to provide the person

responsible for arranging the pesticide application (usually the owner, strata or property manager) with details of the forthcoming treatment so that they can notify residents. The person responsible for organising the job must give notice either in person or by email, fax, letter-box drop or post to all residents at least five working days before the job is to commence. The technician must provide details of the treatment while the job is being done.

Before starting on the pest treatment, the technician should receive confirmation, preferably in writing (i.e. by email, fax or letter) that the residents have been given five working days notice. Less notice may be required in emergency situations.

Notices to both sensitive places and multiple occupancy residential complexes should include:

- the full name of the pesticide
- the reason why the pesticide is being used (e.g. what pest is being treated)
- the proposed date, dates 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.

An example notice is given at the end of this fact sheet.

The relevant material safety data sheets (MSDS) 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, dates or date range, a new notice will need to be issued.

Day of treatment

When treating common areas of multiple occupancy residential complexes, notice is required on the day of treatment. Before commencing the job, the technician must put up notices describing the pesticide application. These notices 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 will need to contain the same details as the pre-treatment notice.

The notice should be put up at the start of the pesticide treatment and remain there until the area is safe to use again. The relevant MSDS must be provided as soon as practicable, if a person provided with the notification requests them. It is recommended that the technician has copies available if required.

Notice of baiting programs

When a baiting program, for example, for termites or rodents is due to commence in the common areas of multiple occupancy residential complexes you are only required to give notice the first time you place pesticides in one or more baiting stations. There is no need to give notice of subsequent visits. However, the technician will need to 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.

Record keeping

As part of the Regulation, if you use pesticides or engage in pest control as part of your job or business, you must make a record of every pesticide application you make.

Emergency situations

An emergency situation 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 pest technician will not need to provide five days notice but is required to provide notice before commencing the pesticide application and record the specific circumstances of the emergency in their records.

You do not need to keep records if:

- you are applying pesticides to treat water in a swimming pool or spa
- you are using non chemical means to control pests, for example, physical termite barriers or glue traps
- the small scale use exemption applies (please see clause 13 (2) (i)(ii) of the Regulation).

Records must be made within 24 hours of application, and must be retained for three years.

Information that you need to record

- The full product name of the pesticide applied.
- The situation in which you used the pesticide, the rate of application and quantity of the pesticide applied.
- A description of the equipment used to apply the pesticide.
- The property address and the area where the pesticide was used (e.g. interior, exterior, subfloor, roof cavity).
- The date and the time of the application.
- The name, address and contact details of the person who applied the pesticide. If you applied the pesticide yourself, write down your own details. If you employed someone to apply the pesticide, then that person must record their name, as well as your name, address and the contact details as their employer.

- The name, address and contact details of the owner or the person who has the management or control of the property where the pesticide was applied.
- If the pesticide was applied outdoors and through the air using spray equipment, then you must make a record of weather conditions including wind speed and any other relevant conditions.

In situations where the technician is contracted to carry out pest control operations for, or on behalf of, the following, the technician must keep a copy of the record for three years and give a copy of the record to the owner or the person who has the management or control of the land on which the pesticide was applied:

- public authority
- golf course or bowling green
- agricultural farming or forestry operations.

What happens if I do not comply?

Strict penalties may apply if you are unable to show evidence that notification was provided when applying pesticides in circumstances

required by the Regulation, or if you fail to keep the required records. On-the-spot fines of \$800 for corporations or \$400 for individuals may apply for failing to give the required notification. On-the-spot fines for record keeping offences range from \$150 to \$750 for individuals and \$300 to \$1500 for corporations. Court-imposed fines of up to \$44,000 may also apply for more serious offences.

Training

Pest management technicians must have a Certificate of Competency issued by WorkCover NSW (www.workcover.nsw.gov.au) and these must be renewed every five years. Pest management businesses who undertake pest control and fumigation activities also have a responsibility under occupational health and safety laws to ensure that their staff and the people who use their services are not adversely affected by pesticides.

Example notice of pesticide notification

A pesticide application will take place on 09 March 2010

Full name of pesticide product:	Biflex Duo 200 Termiticide & Insecticide
This pesticide is being used to treat:	Webbing spiders
This pesticide will be applied to:	All eaves, external walls and fencing
Re-entry periods:	In accordance with Biflex Termiticide & Insecticide label, residents (including pets) are advised not to enter the premises through any treated areas until pesticide has dried
The pesticide is being applied by:	Rob Jones, Responsible Pest Services, contactable on Phone: (02) 8626 6556 or 0444 222 111

Information about this notice

The NSW Pesticides Regulation 2009 requires that advance notice be given when pesticides are applied in common areas of multiple occupancy residential complexes or on properties adjacent to a school, kindergarten, childcare centre, nursing home or community health centre.

Date of notice: **02 March 2010**

Where can I get more information?

More information about notification procedures and record keeping are available by calling the DECCW Environment Line on 131 555 (cost of a local call anywhere in NSW) or by accessing the DECCW website at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pesticides/.

See the Pesticides Regulation 2009 for full details of notification requirements. A copy of the *Pesticides Act 1999* and the Regulation can be obtained from the NSW Department of Services, Technology and Administration or viewed on the NSW Government legislation website at www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.

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Published by:

Department of Environment, Climate Change
and Water NSW
59 Goulburn Street, Sydney
PO Box A290
Sydney South 1232

Phone: (02) 9995 5000 (switchboard)

Phone: 131 555 (environment information
and publications requests)

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change and energy efficiency information,
and publications requests)

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Email: info@environment.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au

ISBN 978 1 74232 926 0

DECCW 2010/768

August 2010

Printed on 100% recycled paper