



Pesticide Policies

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PESTICIDE POLICY

Emergency Numbers

- Poison Control 1-800-732-6985 or 206-526-2121
- National Pesticide Telecommunications Network (NPTN) 1-800-858-7378

Background Information:

Increasing concern about the impact of pesticides on children's health has led to a law dealing with pesticide use in schools and licensed Preschool Centers. As of July 1, 2002, public schools and licensed Preschool Centers must provide annual notification of their pest control policies and methods, establish a system to notify families of children and employees of planned pesticide use, and post signs where pesticides have been applied. (Chapter 17.21 RCW, The Pesticide Application Act)

The impact of pesticides on children's health can range from irritation to skin and mucous membranes to difficulty breathing, rash, or vomiting. Long term exposure may lead to developmental delay, immune or endocrine system disruption, or cancer.

In addition, children with special needs, asthma and allergies can be highly sensitive to pesticides and suffer from mild to severe reactions to pesticides and pesticide residues.

Definition of a Pesticide:

A pesticide is a substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest.

The term pesticide applies to:

- Pesticides (note: Some fertilizers may contain pesticides)
- Insecticides (i.e. Ant or roach killer, flea and lice control products)
- Herbicides (i.e. weedkillers)
- Fungicides (i.e. Sanitizers, cleaners, mold and mildew cleaners, some pool chemicals for algae, including bleach (note: when bleach is used for general sanitizing [1/4 cup bleach: 1 gallon water] it is NOT considered a pesticide).
- Miticides (i.e. mite control products; termite, dust, spider)

*Labels should be read carefully. The label will contain an EPA registration number.

Intent of Policy:

This policy is designed to protect the health of children, meet RCW 17.21.415 and the Compliance Guide for the Use of Pesticides published by the Washington State Department of Agriculture. Full text of the law can be found at www.agr.wa.gov/PestFert/Pesticides/docs/ComplGuidePub075.pdf.

Intent of Precious Preschool & Preschool

We are dedicated to using the least amount of chemical control of pests in our program to provide the healthiest environment possible for our children. To control pests, we attempt to PREVENT infestation by:

- The trash is taken out daily or more as needed.
 - Trash cans are cleaned regularly.
 - Outdoor trash cans or dumpsters are kept covered and away from the building.
 - Grounds are kept clear of food and rubbish.
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- Food is stored in sealed plastic or metal containers.
- All dishes, utensils, and surfaces used for eating or food preparation are cleaned and sanitized at the end of the day.
- Pest entry into facility is prevented by sealing cracks and holes, using and repairing window screens and door sweeps.
- Moisture is controlled by maintaining plumbing and water drainage systems.
- Weed management is done mechanically.
- Vegetation is native and non-toxic. Plant beds are mulched.
- We have an Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) (definition)

IPM is a pest management strategy that focuses on long term prevention or suppression of pest problems including the following six components: **(Must also follow RCW 17.21.415)**

- Education of staff
- Monitoring pests
- Pest prevention (non-chemical)
- Least hazardous approach to pest control
- Notification of pesticide use
- Record keeping

We use the Washington State Department of Agriculture Compliance Guide for the Use of Pesticides at Public Schools (K-12) and Licensed Day Care Centers. This manual can be found at www.wa.gov/agr/pmd as well as in the Director's office.

Policies and Records

If it is necessary to apply pesticides, the following policies and procedures will be followed. We do NOT regularly apply any pesticides to our facility/building.

If we need to apply any pesticide to our landscape/property, we will employ a licensed pest control company to apply any pesticides they deem necessary. When a pesticide is deemed necessary, we will only apply it over a three-day weekend when the children are not present.

Notification of Pesticide Policy

We shall provide written notification annually and upon enrollment to families of children and to employees describing the program's pest control policies and methods, including posting and notification requirements. Our policy will be made available to all families and staff for review annually. A copy will be posted in the Director's office, is available by request from the director, and is posted on our website at www.ctrf.com.

Record keeping and Annual Summary/Notification

We shall make the records of all pesticide applications including an annual summary of the records readily accessible to interested persons by contacting the Director. As required by law, the annual summary will include the product names of all pesticides, active ingredients, quantities of each pesticide, and amount of tank mix applied. The annual summary for the previous year will be made available for review and attached to the pesticide policy.

Building/Facility Application

Pre-Notification

We will notify families and staff at least **forty-eight (48) hours** before a building/structural pesticide application. The notification system shall include posting of the notification in a prominent place in the Director's office, the entry way, and on the door to each classroom.

*Application to the Center must be made within **48 hours** following the intended date and time stated or the pre-notification process must be repeated.

The pre-notification requirements do NOT apply if the indoor application is made when the Center is NOT occupied by children or staff for at least **two (2)** consecutive days after the application (i.e. Friday evening).

*The pre-notification requirements do not apply to any **emergency** application for control of any pest that poses an immediate human health or safety threat, such as an application to control stinging insects. When an **emergency** Center application is made notification will be made at the time of application and the Center will be evacuated and closed to protect children and staff.

Pre-notification and notification signs for facility/structure applications of pesticides (including school van) shall be a minimum **of eight and one-half by eleven inches (8.5" x 11")**, shall state the following, and shall include the heading: *Notice: Pesticide Application*

- The product name and the pesticide to be applied
- The intended date and time of application
- The location to which the pesticide is to be applied
- The pest to be controlled
- The name and phone number of a contact person at the Center
- Notification signs shall be printed in colors contrasting to the background (See Appendix B for an actual sign size example)
- Time of Application Notification (Facility/Structure)

Pre-notification signs must be updated if application differs from intended application with regard to product used, date or time applied, location pesticide applied, pest controlled, name or phone number of contact person.

Notification signs shall remain in place for at **least twenty-four (24) hours** from the time the application is completed. In the event the pesticide label requires a restricted entry interval (REI) greater than **twenty-four (24) hours**, the notification sign shall remain in place consistent with the restricted entry interval (REI) time as required by the label.

Landscape/Grounds Application

A landscape (school grounds) application is any pesticide application to exterior landscape plants, lawn, or insect nest located around the Preschool property (including weed killers).

At the time of application, notification signs will be posted for all pesticide applications made to Preschool grounds unless the application is otherwise required to be posted by a certified applicator under the provisions of RCW 17.21. 410(1)(d).

Notification signs for applications made to Preschool grounds by Preschool employees shall be placed at the location of the application and at each entry point to the area being treated. Several signs will be posted when large areas are treated.

The signs shall be a minimum of **four inches by five inches (4" x 5")**, placed at least twelve inches

from the ground, and shall include the words:

"This landscape has been recently sprayed or treated with pesticides by your Preschool Center."

Signs shall remain in place for a minimum of 24 hours or longer if restricted entry interval time on label requires.

**See actual size example in Appendix

Liability

We are not liable for the removal of signs by unauthorized persons. We may not be held liable for personal damage or bodily injury resulting from signs that are placed as required.

Center employees do not need to be licensed to apply pesticides unless they are using state or federally restricted use pesticides or using motorized, mechanical, or pressurized power equipment (does not include pressurized backpacks or hand-held spray cans).

Storage of Pesticides

We do store pesticides on our grounds. We follow the WSDA rules for storage of pesticides, which are:

- Pesticides with signal words "**Danger**", "**Warning**" or "**Caution**" will be stored in secured storage out of the reach of children in an acceptable enclosure (see below).
- We will not store pesticides above food stuffs due to the possibility of leakage.
- Children will not touch or transport any pesticide or pesticide container.
- Pesticides with signal words "**Danger/Poison**" will be stored in the garage. All containers are labeled and placed on a shelf at least six feet high. The garage is kept locked and is inaccessible to children and unauthorized personal.

We will post warning signs for storage areas containing pesticides with the signal words "Danger/Poison" and will say **(the skull and crossbones symbol) "Danger" Poison Storage Area Keep Out** in letters large enough to be legible from **thirty (30) feet**. For required placement of warning signs please see the map on page 49.

Disposal

There are strict rules for disposing of leftover pesticide product and its container. Pesticides and their containers may NOT be thrown away in regular garbage nor disposed of into our water supply (ground or sewer). We will follow the recommendations of the below agencies.

We will contact the Washington Pest Consultants Association (WaPCA) for proper disposal recommendations of empty pesticide containers. <http://pep.wsu.edu/waste/wapca.html>

Otherwise, we will contact our local solid waste program, call 1-800-cleanup (1- 800-253-2687) or visit the Earth 911 website www.earth911.org for recommendations for disposal of leftover product.

*Unopened containers of legal products may be transferred to another legal user or may be listed on the Industrial Materials Exchange (IMEX) (206) 269-489.

www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/imex/

*Unusable pesticide product will be disposed of in a manner recommended by WSDA.

WSDA: www.wa.gov/agr/pmd/pesticides/collection.htm - (306) 902-2056

Waste Pesticide Program
PO Box 42589
Olympia, WA 98054-2589
