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Ontario's Cosmetic Pesticides Ban What Unlicensed Vendors Need to Know

Ontario's cosmetic pesticides ban will take effect April 22, 2009. The requirements of the ban are detailed in Ontario Regulation 63/09 made under the Pesticides Act, which has been amended by the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act, 2008.

The ban is part of the McGuinty government's toxics reduction strategy to reduce pollution and protect families from toxic chemicals.

There are 11 classes* of pesticides in Ontario Regulation 63/09 and these, the regulation and the act are available on the Ministry of the Environment's web site at www.Ontario.ca/pesticideban. Pesticide products with controlled sales or banned sales are listed in Classes 7 and 8, respectively. Pesticide ingredients banned for use are listed in Class 9.

The ban contains exceptions for public health and safety (including the protection of public works structures), golf courses, specialty turf, specified sports fields, arboriculture and to protect natural resources, if certain conditions are met. There are also exceptions for agriculture, forestry, research and scientific purposes, and uses of pesticides for structural exterminations (e.g., in and around homes to control insects) and uses of pesticides required by other legislation.

The provincial ban supersedes local municipal pesticides bylaws to create one clear, transparent and understandable set of rules across the province.

Regulatory Requirements

Vendors are licensed based on the class of pesticides they sell. Under the cosmetic pesticides ban, unlicensed vendors can:

- No longer sell banned Class 8 products
- Sell controlled sales products (Class 7 – see below) with conditions **until January 1, 2010**
- Sell only Class 6 products

Class 7 Controlled Sales Pesticides

Unlicensed vendors will only be allowed to sell Class 7 products **until January 1, 2010**. After that date they will need to have a limited vendor licence. For more information about obtaining a vendor licence refer to the Ministry of the Environment website listed above.

**Note: All classes are subject to change as newly registered pesticides are classified for sale and use in Ontario, or as products are reclassified or declassified.*

Pesticide products with both non-cosmetic uses and cosmetic uses are listed in Class 7. Such products will only be allowed for non-cosmetic purposes. Retailers must notify purchasers of this. For example, the use of a pesticide to control poison ivy cannot be used on patios or driveways to control weeds.

As well, beginning April 22, 2011, licensed vendors must ensure – by whatever option they prefer – that consumers do not have ready access to Class 7 products.

Pesticide Storage and Disposal

Vendors are responsible for the safe storage and disposal of banned pesticide products. Prior to disposal, consider asking the manufacturers (see product label for details) if unsold pesticides can be returned.

Otherwise, unsold pesticides must be disposed of in accordance with the regulation under the Pesticides Act and Regulation 347 (General Waste Management) under the Environmental Protection Act.

In Ontario, all pesticide wastes must be disposed of at a waste disposal facility that has been approved by the Ministry of the Environment. In addition, pesticide wastes can only be transported by a waste management company that has obtained the appropriate approvals from the Ministry of the Environment.

Disposal of a pesticide by vendors is a multi-step process that requires classifying the waste and then determining the appropriate actions for disposal based on this classification.

Questions regarding the proper disposal of waste pesticides should be directed to your local Ministry of the Environment District Office (look in the Blue Pages in your telephone directory or see a listing on the ministry's web site at www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/about/org/index.php#4).

Compliance and Enforcement

The ministry manages its approach to compliance and enforcement through education and outreach, inspections, response to incidents, voluntary abatement, orders, tickets and prosecutions. In the case of the pesticides ban, the ministry will focus its initial efforts on education when responding to reports of suspected non-compliance. Questions or non-compliance reports should be directed to a ministry district office during regular business hours (look in the Blue Pages in your telephone directory or see a listing on the ministry's web site at www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/about/org/index.php#4). After business hours, call the ministry's Pollution Hotline at 1-866-MOE-TIPS (1-866-663-8477).

For more information:

Questions about the ban can be directed to the Ministry of the Environment's Public Information Centre at 1-800-565-4923 or 416-325-4000.

Several fact sheets are available on the ministry's website for specific audiences, as well as a general fact sheet about the regulation and suggestions on caring for lawns and gardens with greener alternatives.