

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: A professional applicator would not guarantee a safe pesticide application. Why?

A: Because pesticides are toxic chemicals, they pose some risk even when properly applied. The person was being honest and can't make misleading pesticide safety claims such as:

- ▶ "Safe when used according to label directions"
- ▶ "Nontoxic to humans and pets"
- ▶ "EPA-approved" (the EPA registers all pesticides; this claim implies otherwise)

Q: Lawn services must post small warning signs on my lawn after applying a pesticide.

Does that mean the pesticide is dangerous?

A: The signs simply reduce any risk by helping others avoid contacting a recently treated lawn. You need to leave the signs in place until sunset the day after application (or longer, if stated on the sign).

Q: How did the couple on the next block know I hired a lawn service?

A: They registered with the WDATCP to receive advance notice of landscape applications in their neighborhood. Call (608) 224-5296 for more information.

Q: What if I think there was a problem with the application or have a complaint about it?

A: Call the company that made the application. If you think the company acted improperly, you can call WDATCP at (608) 224-4500.

Home PEST seeks to provide homeowners with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about pesticides.

This publication is available from your county Cooperative Extension office.

The Home PEST project was developed by the University of Wisconsin-Extension Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) program.

Any reference to pesticide products are for your convenience and are not an endorsement or criticism of one product over other similar products.

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Director, Cooperative Extension Publications
201 Hiram Smith Hall
1545 Observatory Drive
Madison, WI 53706

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Professional Application Services What You Should Know

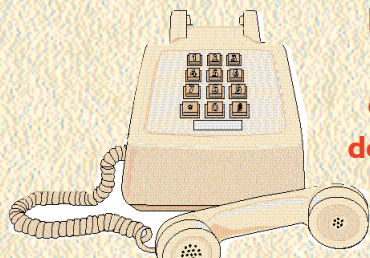


Home PEST

Home Pesticide Education & Safety Training
University of Wisconsin-Extension

You may find it too difficult to manage some pest problems on your own. Consider hiring a professional service (e.g., pest control operator, lawn care service, pet groomer) for situations such as those involving:

- ▶ Large trees or oversize lawns
- ▶ Carpenter ant nests within the home
- ▶ Termites
- ▶ Severe flea or rodent infestations



Hiring a job done is also a good option if you simply do not want to handle pesticides yourself.

▶ **BEFORE You Call a Professional Find Out:**

as much about your pest problem as possible. Contact your county Extension office or veterinarian for a positive identification of the pest, and ask them what needs to be done to manage the pest.

Landlords and apartment/condominium managers often prefer to hire professional services. In doing so, they and the service must provide some information to tenants.

Call the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) at (608) 224-4500 for details.

▶ **BEFORE You Hire a Professional Find Out:**

- ▶ If they are certified and licensed by the WDATCP. Each is required by state law and shows the person has been properly trained to apply pesticides.
- ▶ How they will manage the pest and why. Compare this to the information you gathered about your pest problem.
- ▶ If they will make a single application or will require you to sign a one-year contract. Can you negotiate terms of the contract?
- ▶ How the pricing system works and what services are included. For example, if the company has to return between scheduled visits, will there be an additional charge?
- ▶ What is guaranteed.
- ▶ What you will need to do before an application (e.g., remove toys and pet dishes, close windows, cover food).
- ▶ If the company is a member of a state or national trade association. Associations provide members with updates and educational opportunities.
- ▶ If they are bonded and insured. Though not required, this is strongly recommended for anyone who works on your property.

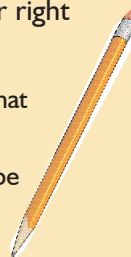


▶ **Know Your Rights:**

Advance Notice of Residential and Landscape Applications.

Before a professional service that you hired makes a residential or landscape application for you, they must inform you of your right to receive in writing:

- ▶ A copy of the label of each pesticide that may be applied.
- ▶ The name of each pesticide that may be applied.
- ▶ The intended application date.
- ▶ The name, business address, and telephone number of a person who can provide more information about the application.



Post-Application Notification of Any Application.

Regardless of the type of application, the service you hired must provide you with the following in writing after the pesticide is applied:

- ▶ The business' name, address, and telephone number.
- ▶ The applicator's name and license number.
- ▶ The name and EPA registration number of each pesticide applied.
- ▶ The rate and amount of each pesticide applied.
- ▶ Where each pesticide was applied
- ▶ The date and time of application.
- ▶ Post-application precautions.
- ▶ An offer to provide a free copy of the label of each pesticide applied.