

Ontario's Cosmetic Pesticides Ban

Since April 22, 2009, there has been a provincial ban on the cosmetic use of pesticides.

Under new regulation in the *Pesticides Act*, over 80 pesticide ingredients and 250 pesticide products can no longer be sold by retailers or used by homeowners in Ontario.

What does this mean?

This means that highly toxic and persistent pesticides can not be used to control pests and weeds on lawns, gardens, patios, cemeteries, in parks and school yards in Ontario.

The provincial cosmetic pesticides ban overrides all existing municipal pesticide by-laws. It provides one set of rules across the province to reduce pesticide exposures to people and the environment. 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.

What is meant by "cosmetic use"?

"Cosmetic" refers to pesticides used for non-essential or aesthetic (visually pleasing) purposes. It is associated with the use of lawn care and garden products.



What pesticides are permitted?

The Ontario Ministry of Environment (MOE) has issued a new classification system as the basis for regulating the sale and use of pesticides, licensing vendors, and issuing permits. Pesticides have been grouped into 11 classes in Ontario Regulation 63/09. These can be found on the Ministry of the Environment's web site at www.Ontario.ca/pesticideban.

Under the ban, residents can still buy certain types of pesticides for use around the home.

- To control wasps or mosquitoes that can transmit West Nile Virus
- To kill plants that are poisonous to the touch, such as poison ivy
- To control pests that cause structural damage to the home
- To protect health (e.g. control of fleas, ticks, bedbugs)

For home garden and lawn care, residents can buy pesticides certified for use in Canada. This includes biopesticides and lower risk pesticides to manage weeds, insects, and plant diseases. These pesticides **must be** used according to their label.

Are there exceptions to the ban?

The ban does not apply to the following uses:

- Public health or safety
- Natural resources
- Golf courses
- Sports fields
- Specialty turfs
- Trees
- Public works
- Forestry
- Agriculture
- Scientific purposes

For industry-specific fact sheets, visit www.Ontario.ca/pesticideban and click on "What You Need to Know."

Do I need to post a sign if I apply pesticides to my lawn and garden?

No. Homeowners do not have to post a sign. But rules do require licensed exterminators to post a notice sign.

How do I dispose of Pesticides safely?

If you have pesticides stored in your garage or garden shed that are now banned, you can take them to your local municipal hazardous or special waste collection sites for proper disposal. Leftover pesticides should **never** be disposed of in a manner that would harm public health or the environment. **Do not** pour them down the drain.

Stewardship Ontario provides a list of local waste collection sites on their website at www.dowhatyoucan.ca. *Note: not all locations listed collected pesticide waste. Be sure to review the list of materials collected at specific sites or call ahead to confirm.*

How will the ban be enforced?

The MOE will enforce compliance upon receiving a report of suspected non-compliance. Enforcement efforts will focus on education, followed by ticketing, fines or court action with subsequent warnings. A report of suspected non-compliance should be directed to your local MOE district office (during business hours) or the Ministry's Pollution Hotline at 1-866-MOE-TIPS (1-866-663-8477).



How can I grow and maintain a healthy lawn without using pesticides?

Keep your lawn healthy by using the following good maintenance practices:

- **Mow high** to promote growth, prevent weeds and discourage insect pests.
- **Water deeply and infrequently** to promote deep roots.
- **Feed** your lawn with compost and leave grass clippings where they fall.
- **Aerate** in the fall season.
- **Overseed** in the spring or fall season.
- **Replace** grass with paving stones or use mulch in heavy traffic areas.
- **Fertilize** with slow release fertilizer if necessary.
- **Check** the lawn regularly.
- **Discover** that healthy lawns are less susceptible to pest problems.
- **Enjoy!** A healthy, pesticide-free lawn is a great place to relax.

Where can I find more information?

Ontario's Cosmetics Pesticides Ban:

- Ministry of the Environment's Public Information Centre: 1-800-565-4923 or 416-325-4000
- Ministry of Environment:
www.Ontario.ca/pesticideban

Healthy Lawns & Gardens:

- Add it Up Ontario: www.additupontario.ca
- Naturally Green: www.halton.ca/naturallygreen

For more information contact

Halton Region

Dial 311 or 905-825-6000

Toll free 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866)

TTY 905-827-9833

www.halton.ca

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