



## No. 18: Pesticide Applicator Checklist

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This leaflet will help you develop a list of things to work on to ensure your use of pesticides is legal, cost effective, and as safe as possible. Check yes or no for each question. When you are done, the questions that you answered with a "no" will suggest things you can start to work on in order to use pesticides safely, legally, and effectively.

YES NO

- |                          |                          |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | For each crop you grow, do you know the major pests, how to identify the pests, the type of damage each pest causes, what to monitor for when scouting to determine control timing and action thresholds, and what control options can be used with each pest? In other words, could you implement your own integrated pest management (IPM) program? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you currently have a monitoring and scouting program in place for each crop?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you rotate between classes of pesticides that do not share a common mode of action or have cross-resistance?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you limit unnecessary chemical treatment to avoid selecting for a resistant population of pests?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you have a currently valid pesticide applicator certificate?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | If you are a certified applicator, does the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) have your current address?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you keep a copy of the label on hand at the time of pesticide application?   |

Educating People to Help Themselves

**YES**   **NO**

 

Do you use all of the safety equipment indicated on the labels of the pesticide products you use?

 

Do you use an anti-siphon device or leave an air gap when you fill pest control equipment with water?

 

Have you made sure that your pesticide storage site has adequate temperature control, adequate lighting, nonporous flooring, and that it is situated to prevent runoff into sensitive areas in the event of spills or heavy runoff from firefighting or floods?

 

Is your pesticide storage area posted with an appropriate warning sign?

 

Is your pesticide storage area locked?

 

Is your pesticide storage area physically separated from living and working areas?

 

Do you keep food, feed, and fertilizer out of your pesticide storage area?

 

Is your pesticide storage area dry and well ventilated?

 

Are all your pesticide containers free of leaks and stored on non-porous shelving that could contain any leaks?

 

Is the original label attached to each pesticide product, and are all the labels legible?

 

Do you have an appropriate fire extinguisher and spill control kit on hand near your pesticide storage area?

 

Do you store volatile herbicides separately, isolate waste products, keep an accurate inventory of pesticides, and avoid storing unnecessarily large quantities of pesticides for long periods of time?

 

Is your pesticide storage area more than 50 feet from a well, or if not, do you use secondary containment?

 

Have you determined if you need to contact the State Emergency Response Commission regarding the materials you store? ([SARA title III Community Right-to-Know](#))

 

Have you chosen a mixing and loading area that is outdoors or in a well ventilated area; that has good lighting; and is away from unprotected people, animals, food, other pesticides, and other items that might be contaminated?

YES NO

When mixing and loading, do you place your equipment where spills, leaks, and overflows will not flow toward a drain or into the water supply? If you are mixing and loading often at the same site, have you constructed a collection pad or tray?

When filling spray tanks, is someone always there to be sure nothing goes wrong?

The worker protection standards apply to farms, nurseries, greenhouses, and forest operations. If you are an employer in one of these operations, have you obtained a copy of the manual [How to Comply with the Worker Protection Standards for Agricultural Pesticides: What Employers Need to Know?](#)

If you have employees, have you made a list of the hazardous chemicals in the workplace, obtained a material safety data sheet (MSDS) for each hazardous substance on your list, ensured that all containers of hazardous materials are labeled at all times, trained all workers about the hazardous materials in their workplace, and kept a file (including the MSDSs) on the hazardous chemicals and made it available to workers?

For every pesticide application you make, do you keep a record of all of the following for 2 years?

- Name of applicator or consultant and name of the certified applicator, if different from the applicator?
- Date of application, recommendation, or pest identification?
- Pest and type of plant, animal, or structure?
- Acreage or number of plants or animals, or square footage of structures?
- Address of treated property?
- Name of owner or tenant of property?
- Common name and EPA registration number of pesticide or pesticides used or recommended?
- Rate of concentration of pesticide used or recommended?
- Total amount of pesticide used?

Have you asked your physician or poison control center to get a copy of the latest edition of [Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisonings?](#)

Do you clean all reusable personal protective equipment (PPE) after each use?

Do you keep all clothing worn when handling pesticides separate from household laundry?

Do the people who clean and maintain your PPE wear gloves and an apron, work in a well ventilated area, and know that they can be harmed by touching the pesticide that remains on contaminated objects?

**YES**   **NO**

After washing contaminated clothing in your washer, do you run the washer through at least one additional cycle without clothing, using detergent and hot water, to clean the machine before any other laundry is washed?

Do you store respirators and eyewear in an area where they are protected from dust, sunlight, and pesticides and other chemicals? Do you store respirator cartridges in an airtight plastic container or bag?

Have you checked with MDA or your county Extension recently to find out what you should be doing to protect endangered species?

Have you considered transferring your pesticides in a "closed system" or bulk system?

Is your equipment free of cracks in hoses, tanks, and containers, and generally well-maintained?

Do you triple rinse or pressure rinse pesticide containers when appropriate, avoid using pesticide containers for any other purpose, and crush or puncture empty containers prior to disposing of them in a sanitary landfill?

Do you avoid washing equipment repeatedly in the same area unless you use a containment pad or tray?

If you have rinsates from equipment clean-up that you cannot use, do you dispose of them as you would excess pesticides?

When transporting pesticides, do you always tie them down or secure them?

When transporting pesticides, do you always carry them in a vehicle compartment separate from people?

When pesticides are temporarily stored or transported in a service container, do you label the container with the common or chemical name of the pesticide, the signal word, the percent concentration, and the EPA registration number?

When transporting pesticides, do you carry PPE, a spill kit, a fire extinguisher, a first aid kit, a change of clothes, water, towels, soap, emergency telephone numbers, ropes and tie downs, and anything you need such as tarps to keep the load dry?

If you transport reportable quantities (see the MSDS sheet), do you fill out shipping papers acceptable to the Department of Transportation (DOT)?

**YES**   **NO**

 

Do you correctly and regularly dispose of empty pesticide containers, excess usable pesticides, and waste materials that contain pesticides or their residues?

 

Have you checked to see if you need to register as a generator of hazardous waste? See: [www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/generation/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/generation/index.htm)

 

Do you keep records for OSHA and report all work-related injuries or illnesses that involved medical treatment, loss of consciousness, restriction of work or motion, death, or transfer to another job? (Ask an insurance agent who handles workman's compensation and liability insurance for forms and details.)

 

Have you considered what insurance is appropriate for your business?

Have you taken the following steps to reduce fire hazards?

- Locate storage facilities as far as possible from where people and animals live.
- Keep the storage facility locked at all times.
- Post signs indicating that combustible materials are stored in the facility.
- Store combustible materials away from steam lines and other heating systems.
- Store glass or pressurized containers out of sunlight, which may concentrate heat rays and possibly cause them to explode or ignite.
- Install fire detection systems in large storage areas.
- Keep foam-type fire extinguishers that are approved for chemical fires in all storage areas.
- Notify the servicing fire company of the location and contents of the storage facility.
- Develop an emergency plan and train all workers in its execution.
- Keep a written inventory of the pesticides held in storage, and file the list in a building away from the storage site.

Do you have a spill kit containing the following items?

- Telephone numbers for emergency assistance.
- Gloves, footwear, and an apron that are chemical-resistant to most pesticides, such as barrier-laminate gear.
- Protective eyewear.
- An appropriate respirator, if any of the pesticides require the use of one during handling activities or for spill cleanup.
- Containment "snakes" to confine the leak or spill to a small area.
- Absorbent materials, such as spill pillows, absorbent clay, sawdust, pet litter, activated charcoal, vermiculite, or paper to soak up liquid spills.
- Sweeping compound to keep dry spills from drifting or wafting during cleanup.

- ❑ A shovel, broom, and dustpan (foldable brooms and shovels are handy, because they can be carried easily).
- ❑ Heavy-duty detergent.
- ❑ Fire extinguisher rated for all types of fires.
- ❑ Any other spill cleanup items specified on the labeling of any products you use regularly.
- ❑ A sturdy plastic container that will hold the quantity of pesticide from the largest pesticide container being handled and that can be tightly closed.

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