



## **PESTICIDE ADVISORY**

### **PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS NEAR OR INSIDE APARTMENT COMPLEXES**

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) would like to remind pesticide applicators that good customer service is a major component of pest control. Recently, ODA has received a number of calls with concerns relating to applications at apartment complexes. Pest pressures at an apartment complex may require pesticide applications on lawns, in communal areas, or inside residential units. Strong communication with the residents before and after pesticide applications can help build good relationships with the public, and often facility owners or managers can help with communication efforts.

Approach customers with a friendly and professional attitude and be mindful of their concerns. Before pesticide applications, describe the pesticide(s) that may be used, including advising the customer on how to prepare before, during, and after the treatment. If the customer is interested in learning more about the pesticide being applied, you might consider referring them to the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) (800) 858-7378; [npic.orst.edu](http://npic.orst.edu)). By building relationships and maintaining good communication with those living at apartment complexes, applicators can help reduce risks to nearby people, animals, and the environment.

#### Best Practices When Applying Pesticides Near or Inside Apartment Complexes:

##### **Prior to application**

- Before conducting any pesticidal application, be sure that the pests of concern require the use of pesticides.
- Consider talking with the management or the residents directly about notification prior to treatment, as a way to take steps to reduce their risks.
- Look for children's toys, and ask to have them removed before the application.
- Provide instructions about pets, including birds and fish. Check the area for pet toys or water/food bowls and remove them or ask to have them removed before application. Inform residents they can return the items when the area has dried.
- Choose low-toxicity and low odor pesticide products if possible. The pesticide **must be registered** with ODA. Click [here](#) to search for pesticides registered in Oregon. Contact ODA at: (503) 986-4635 or [pesticide-expert@oda.oregon.gov](mailto:pesticide-expert@oda.oregon.gov) about limitations on pesticide products.
- Read and understand the label prior to using any pesticide, including statements intended to minimize the risks. The label will tell you exactly where and how to use the product and the appropriate personal protective equipment. Pay particular attention to where products can be applied, the rate of application, and ventilation requirements (indoor pesticides) that may be on the label.

##### **While on site**

- Ask residents if they have any specific concerns about the application. Be aware of the possible presence of sensitive individuals, such as pregnant women, children, immunocompromised, or the elderly.
- When making outdoor applications, be aware of when children may be leaving or returning from school, or prime dog walking hours.
- When talking to residents about pesticides, frame the conversation about risk instead of safety. Pesticides are never 100% safe. The risk depends on the toxicity of the product and chances and degree of exposure.
- Ask questions and listen to residents. If you can provide actions they can take to reduce their risks (staying out of the area, shutting windows/doors, waiting until the area has dried), they may be more willing to accept that risk.
- Providing knowledge of the product being used and why it is being applied can help to build trust with nearby residents.
- If approached by a resident during an application, immediately suspend the application and move to an untreated area to continue the conversation.
- Check your nearby surroundings for any beehives or water sources (storm drains, wells, ponds, lakes, etc.).

#### **After the application**

- Implement and suggest to the property owner or manager, and when appropriate, to residents, integrated pest management practices such as sanitation, early detection of pest problems, and mechanical control used in combination with pesticides.
- Keep a record of all pesticidal applications with detailed information.

Refer to the [Oregon Core Manual Addendum](#) for more information on Oregon laws, as they are more restrictive than federal laws.

- Consider flagging or marking outdoor treated areas so that residents know not to enter until the sprays or watered-in granules, have dried.
- Provide residents with steps to take to prevent future infestations, if applicable.
- If anyone is exposed to a pesticide, advise them that free emergency medical information is available from the Oregon Poison Center (800.222.1222).

