

PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS

1. Indoor Pesticide Applications Briefing Information for Principals
 - 1.1. From time to time, infestations of pests, usually insects, are encountered in our school buildings, and treatment with pesticide is required to control them. In fact, the majority of calls are initiated by the Principal.
 - 1.2. The Facilities Division, who apply the pesticides, will undertake to post the area or room in which the pesticide application is being carried out. This is done on a “right-to-know” practice, even though the existing City By-law does not require it in schools.
 - 1.3. In general, a notification sign will be posted at the entrance to the area to be treated 72 hours before application to 72 hours afterwards. In the case of an emergency, the application of pesticide would be done immediately and the sign posted and left for 72 hours (an emergency might be an infestation of wasps which constitutes an immediate hazard to children from stings). The decision to declare the incident an emergency will be made by the Principal, and the Maintenance Group will be advised accordingly when they are called.
 - 1.4. Additionally, it will be the District's practice to also advise parents of the impending pesticide application as soon as it is feasible, generally at the time the sign is posted by the applicator. The details will be provided so that the form letter can be forwarded to the parents and the children in the affected area or room.
 - 1.5. Information on the commonly used indoor pesticides and application procedures is attached so that concerns of parents who may call can be addressed.
2. Indoor Pesticide Applications - Processes and Information
 - 2.1. Usual or Normal Processes
 - 2.1.1. Upon request of a Principal, the pesticide applicator visits the school, posts the signage at the infested area, and advises the Principal of the intended treatment that will be carried out after 72 hours. If it is an emergency as declared by the Principal, the applicator will apply the pesticide immediately and post the sign.
 - 2.1.2. The Principal shall send completed form letter to parents of children in the room or area to be treated (or that has been treated) as soon as possible.
 - 2.1.3. The Principal shall arrange for removal of the posted sign 72 hours after application of pesticide.
 - 2.2. Usual Pesticides Utilized
 - 2.2.1. Fleas: Insecticide Pyrethrin: the room is fogged. The insecticide degrades in 2-4 hours. However, the room is vacated for 24 hours minimum after application.
 - 2.2.2. Wasps/Hornets: Insecticide Bagun: spot treatment is used (stream from an aerosol can), usually outside.

- 2.2.3. Ants: Pesticide Basudin: spot treatment in the room is directed into the corners or areas where insects are seen. If feasible, ant traps are employed.
- 2.2.4. Cockroaches: Pesticide Basudin: spot treatment in the room is directed at baseboard, bottom cupboards, or under sinks where insects are detected.
- 2.2.5. Earwigs: Pesticide Basudin: spot treatment is used where insects are detected.

3. The staff who carry out the pesticide applications are fully qualified and licensed by the provincial government. They are required to renew their licences every three years and must rewrite provincial examinations to do so. The pesticides utilized are chosen to be the most specific available for the pest encountered and minimize any side effects. All applications comply with City Pesticide By-law #4387 (as amended by By-laws #6236 and #6239).

3.1. Further information may be obtained from the Director of Facilities at (604)-713-5640.

Reference: Sections 17, 20, 22, 23, 65, 85 School Act
Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act
Health Act
Occupational Health and Safety Regulation
Provincial Pesticide Control Regulation
W.C.B Standard Practices for Pesticide Applications
Agriculture Canada Guidelines for Pesticides

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