



Focus

Permission Is Needed To Put Herbicides In The Water

If you apply aquatic pesticides (including herbicides) to lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, or ditches, you need to have a Department of Ecology permit and a Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) pesticide applicator license. Illegal applications may result in fines of up to or over \$10,000. Permits may be obtained from your regional Ecology office. A license to apply the chemicals can be obtained from the WSDA.

Potential Liability of Applicator

Pesticides put in water can easily have unintended affects. Water does not stay put--it moves. Rivers flow, lakes have currents, wind stirs water, and ponds and wetlands that look stagnate may be connected to ground water.

People use water for many things including drinking, irrigation, and recreation. Nature depends on clean water. People who apply chemicals to waterbodies can be liable for damages to public health, property, recreation, and for damage to plants and wildlife.

Only Certain Herbicides Allowed

In order to protect public health and sensitive environments, only certain herbicides can be used in Washington's waters--Rodeo, Sonar, and Aquathol K. Copper compounds are sometimes allowed for algae control.

No other herbicides (including 2,4-d, Roundup, Casoron, Simazine, and Diquat) may be used in the water even when the product label states that the chemical may be used in water and the product is registered with Department of Agriculture.

Aquatic Applicator License Required

An aquatic pesticide applicator license is required to legally purchase and apply aquatic pesticides in Washington. **It is illegal to buy aquatic herbicides for use in Washington from out-of-state mail order firms without a current WSDA license.** Further information about licensing requirements may be obtained by calling the appropriate Agriculture number listed on the back of this sheet.

How to Seek A Permit

The applicant begins by filling out an application form and a checklist. Ecology examines for completeness and routes them to various agencies who look for potential harmful consequences of treatment. Before a permit is issued, Ecology gathers the reviewers comments and determines if the potential benefits of treatment outweigh possible side effects. If the application is approved, a permit is written. This process takes about 45 days. For more information on the permit process, call the appropriate Ecology number listed on the back of this sheet.

Contacts

Department of Ecology

General Information (206) 459-6360

Northwest Regional Office (206) 649-7000

Covers: King, Kitsap, Snohomish, Skagit, Island, San Juan, and Whatcom counties.

Southwest Regional Office (206) 753-2353

Covers: Pierce, Mason, Thurston, Lewis, Cowlitz, Clark, Pacific, Wahkiakum, Grays Harbor, Skamania, Jefferson and Clallam counties.

Central Regional Office (509) 575-2490

Covers: Okanogan, Chelan, Kittitas, Yakima, Klickitat, Benton, and Douglas counties.

Eastern Regional Office (509) 456-2926

Covers: Spokane, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Lincoln, Adams, Grant, Asotin, Columbia, Walla Walla, Whitman, Franklin, Garfield, and Ferry counties.

Department of Agriculture

West of Cascades -- Olympia License Information (206) 902-2020

Report Pesticide Misuse (206) 902-2040

East of Cascades --Yakima (509) 572-2746