



Urban Pesticide Applications

Notification Requirements and Sign Specifications for Commercial and Public Applicators in Iowa

Notification requirements

Based on Iowa law*, if you are a commercial or public applicator who applies pesticides within urban areas in municipalities, you must post or affix notification signs at the start of the application. Display signs for at least 24 hours after the application or longer if required by the reentry directions on the pesticide label(s).

This rule applies to pesticide applications made to lawns, shrubbery, trees, gardens, and other landscape features. This requirement does not apply to pesticides applied within a structure or within six feet of the outside perimeter of a structure, nor does it apply to pesticide applications by the homeowner or tenant to their property.

Prenotification

- Any person who asks in writing to be notified before pesticides are to be applied to adjoining properties must be notified. The request must include the person's name, address, telephone number where he/she can be reached during normal business hours and evening hours, and the address of each adjoining property.
- Upon request, you must provide notification at least the day before the scheduled application.
- You or a representative of your business must furnish notification in writing, in person, or by telephone stating the date and approximate time of application.

- If you cannot reach the person who requested notification, you must leave a written notice at that person's residence at least one day before you make the application
- You must provide the label and other information about the use of the pesticide(s) being applied to anyone who requests information.
- If the pesticide label states that further maintenance is required after the application, you must provide the homeowner or person in charge of the property with instructions on proper maintenance procedures and, if requested, a copy of the complete label.
- Prenotification requests expire on December 31 of the year they were made. A new request must be filed each year.

Notification signs

- Use signs made of a material that will resist precipitation for at least 24 hours.
- Do not remove the signs for at least 24 hours from the time pesticides are applied. A longer period may be required by the label of the pesticide used.
- If the pesticide label requires a reentry restriction of more than 24 hours, leave the sign in place for the specified period.
- When the posting period expires, all notification signs should be removed by you, a delegate of the business, or the owner or person in charge of the property to which the pesticide was applied.

*Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 45 Pesticides, 21.45.50

Sign specifications

Residential sites

- Wording** Name and telephone number of person, business, or organization applying the pesticide. "This area chemically treated. Keep off. Do not remove sign for 24 hours." (or other reentry time as specified on the label). An alternative sign displaying universal symbols also may be used if it is approved by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.
- Placard** 4 × 5 inches minimum, weather resistant.
- Lettering** 3/8 inch minimum, contrasting colors, block letters.
- Placement** Must project 12 inches above top of grass or 18 inches to top of sign. Must be on the lawn or yard between 2 and 5 feet from sidewalk and back lot line, if backyard is open. Post individual landscape features (shrubs, trees, or gardens) for localized applications.

Urban parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, and similar areas

- Wording** Name and telephone number of person, business, or organization applying the pesticide. "This area chemically treated. Keep off. Do not remove sign for 24 hours." (or other reentry time as specified on the label).
- Placard** 4 × 5 inches minimum, weather resistant.
- Lettering** 3/8 inch minimum, contrasting colors, block letters.
- Placement** Must project 12 inches above top of grass or 18 inches to top of sign. Post signs adjacent to treated areas within the property and near entrances. Post in conspicuous manner to provide reasonable notification.

Golf courses

- Wording** Name and telephone number of person, business, or organization applying the pesticide. Pesticides are periodically applied to the golf course. If desired, you may contact your golf course superintendent or person in charge for further information."
- Placard** 8½ × 11 inches minimum, weather resistant.
- Lettering** ½ inch minimum, contrasting colors, block letters.
- Placement** Post in a conspicuous manner near the number one and number ten tees or at the beginning tee of each nine-hole course before the application of pesticides, and leave in place for at least 24 hours following any pesticide application.

Public rights-of-way within corporate limits of municipalities

- Wording** Name and telephone number of person, business, or organization applying the pesticide. "This area chemically treated. Keep off. Do not remove sign for 24 hours." (or other reentry time as specified on the label).
- Placard** 10 × 12 inches minimum, weather resistant.
- Lettering** 1 inch minimum, contrasting colors, block letters.
- Placement** Must project 2 feet above top of grass or 3 feet to top of sign. Minimum of one sign at beginning and end of each block in a residential area. Minimum of one sign at beginning and end of area treated. Individual landscape features (e.g., gardens, shrubs, trees) must be posted.

If you have further questions, please contact the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship — Pesticide Bureau at 515-281-8591.

Revised by Mark Shour, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach specialist.

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