

Health and Safety Guide for K-12 Schools in Washington State – 2024 Update of the 2003 Edition

References:

[Washington State Department of Agriculture \(WSDA\) Schools and Child Care Centers RCW 17.21.415: Schools—Policies and methods—Notification—Records—Liability. \(wa.gov\)](#)
[Compliance Guide For the Use of Pesticides At Public Schools \(K-12\) And Licensed Day-Care Centers Schools & Licensed Day Cares Pesticide Notification & Records Inspection](#) WSDA checklist
[WAC 16.228.1220](#) Restrictions for Holding, Handling, Using, or Disposing of Pesticides and their Containers.
[WAC 246-366-050](#): Buildings Section 5 and 6
[Waste Pesticide Program | Washington State Department of Agriculture](#)
[Pesticide License Types | Washington State Department of Agriculture](#)
[Schools and Pesticides | Washington State Department of Health](#)
[Integrated Pest Management | Washington State University \(wsu.edu\)](#)
[Integrated Pest Management | Washington State Department of Health](#)
[WSSP 2023 Version \(ospi.k12.wa.us\) IEO3.4.6- Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\) Plan](#)

Q. Pesticide Use in Schools		WAC or other Code Reference	Standard/Recommended Practice	Review Plan	Reason for Change
Q001	K-12 public schools and licensed day care centers must provide annual notification of their pest control policies and methods upon request and , establish a system to notify parents and guardians and employees of planned pesticide use and post signs where pesticides have been applied.	RCW 17.21. 415			
Q001 a	<i>Note: The WSDA A manual titled "Compliance Guide for the Use of Pesticides at Public Schools (K-12) and Licensed Day Care Centers" is available at Washington State Department of Agriculture's website: www.wa.gov/agr/PestFort/default.htm. The manual provides detailed instructions, diagrams, and sample signs and forms for school use.</i>	RCW 17.21. 415			
Q002	A school shall provide written notification, upon request, to parents or guardians of students and employees describing the school's pest control policies and methods, including the posting and notification requirements of the law. Annually, or upon enrollment, schools must provide a written notification to parents (or guardians) and to school employees. This notification must inform them of the school's pest control policies and methods of application as well as the requirements for posting and pre-notification.	RCW 17.21. 415(2)			Actual language is "upon request" though schools are wise to do it annually, or upon enrollment also. (the term enrollment is not used anywhere in statute)
Q003	A system must be in place that notifies interested parents or guardians and school employees at least 48 hours before a pesticide application. Notification must name the pesticide to be applied, the location, intended date and time of the application, the pest to be controlled and the name and telephone number of a contact person at the school.	RCW 17.21. 415(4&5)			

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<p>Q004 The law requires posting of all pesticide applications at the time of the application. The poster (sign) must remain in place a minimum of 24 hours. Posting requirements are slightly different for pesticide applications made to school grounds (outdoors) versus applications to school structures (indoors). All pesticide applications at a school must be posted at a prominent place in the main office. The sign must be at least 8.5 inches by 11 inches in size and must state the name of the pesticide applied, the date, time and location of the application, the pest to be controlled and a contact name and phone number of a contact at the school.</p>	<p>RCW 17.21 .415(3-63)</p>			<p>Rule clarification.</p>
<p>Q005 Signs for outdoor posting must be at least 4 inches by 5 inches in size and must state: THIS LANDSCAPE HAS BEEN RECENTLY SPRAYED OR TREATED WITH PESTICIDES BY YOUR SCHOOL (Actual name of the school or school district should be on the sign.) The sign must also include the name and phone number of who to call for more information. Notification signs for applications made to school facilities other than school grounds shall be posted at the location of the application. The signs shall be a minimum of eight and one-half by eleven inches and shall include the heading "Notice: Pesticide Application" and, at a minimum, shall state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The product name of the pesticide applied; • (ii) The date and time of application; • (iii) The location to which the pesticide was applied; • (iv) The pest to be controlled; and • (v) The name and phone number of a contact person at the school. 	<p>RCW 17.21 .415(6)</p>			<p>Rule clarification.</p>

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<p>Q006 Signs for indoor posting must be at least 8.5 inches by 11 inches in size and must state the name of the pesticide applied, the date, time and location of the application, the pest to be controlled and a contact name and number. Posting must be made in a prominent place in the main office and at the actual application location.</p> <p><u>A certified applicator making landscape applications to a school, nursery school, or licensed day care shall at the time of the application place a marker at each primary point of entry to the school grounds.</u></p> <p><u>The marker shall be a minimum of four inches by five inches. It shall have the words: "THIS LANDSCAPE HAS BEEN TREATED BY" as the headline and "FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL" as the footer. Larger size requirements for markers may be established in rule for specific applications. The company name and service mark shall be included between the headline and the footer on a marker placed by a commercial applicator. The applicator's telephone number where information can be obtained about the application shall be included in the footer of the marker. Markers shall be printed in colors contrasting to the background.</u></p> <p><u>Notification signs for applications made to school grounds by school employees shall be placed at the location of the application and at each primary point of entry to the school grounds. The signs shall be a minimum of four inches by five inches and shall include the words: "THIS LANDSCAPE HAS BEEN RECENTLY SPRAYED OR TREATED WITH PESTICIDES BY YOUR SCHOOL" as the headline and "FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL" as the footer. The footer shall provide the name and telephone number of a contact person at the school.</u></p>	<p>RCW 17.21.410(1)(d) 17.21.410(3) 17.21.415(6)</p>			<p>Provided more detailed information on the school grounds notification.</p>
<p>Q007 Public schools and day care centers must keep an annual summary of all pesticide applications and make that summary readily available to interested persons. <u>Private schools are encouraged to do so also.</u></p>	<p>RCW 17.21.415(10)</p>			
<p>Q008 Pesticide storage requirements are located here in <u>WAC 16-228</u>. State and local fire codes regarding storage requirements may be more restrictive than WSDA requirements specified in WAC 16-228. s<u>School administrators</u> must check with their local Fire Department for specific requirements.</p>	<p>16-228-1220(6)(7)</p>		<p>x</p>	

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Q009	NOTE: Free pesticide disposal is available to public schools through the WA Dept. of Agriculture. Phone: (360) 902-2056 or, 1-877-301-4555. Fax (360) 902-2093, Email: wastepesticide@agr.wa.gov . Website above : www.wa.gov/agr/PestFort/EnvResources/WastePesticide.htm			
Q010	Schools are encouraged to use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) . IPM is recommended by DOH and EPA and all other agencies as the Best Management Practice for schools to employ when addressing pest concerns. See the website at:	EPA OSPI and DOH	EPA DOH OSPI	x
Q011	Information on pesticide applicator license including: Do I need a pesticide applicator license? What type of license? What categories/endorsements do I need? Can be found at the WSDA Pesticide License website.	RCW 15.58 RCW 17.21 WAC 16-228-1500-1590		Added for help in answering questions about licensing requirements.
Q012	The premises and all buildings shall be free of insects and rodents of public health significance and conditions which attract, provide harborage and promote propagation of vermin.	246-366-050(5)		SBOH School Rule requirement
Q013	(6) All poisonous compounds shall be easily identified, used with extreme caution and stored in such a manner as to prevent unauthorized use or possible contamination of food and drink.	246-366-050(6)		SBOH School Rule requirement