



AGRICULTURE, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

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2020 Registration Bulletin for Businesses Performing Pest Control

Thank you for registering your pest control business with the Marin County Department of Agriculture!

Please remember that all county registrations expire annually on December 31st.
Marin County does not send out reminders to register.

LATEST NEWS & INFORMATION

Pesticide Notification Requirements

The *most common* pesticide complaint our office receives is lack of proper notification to tenants prior to pesticide applications. All pest control businesses must provide notice of pesticide applications *prior to the pesticide application*.

Regular and effective communication with property operators and tenants is essential. Know who your contacts are and arrange in advance your notification process.

Structural Pest Control Businesses are required to give *both* the property operator and tenants written notice of pesticide applications prior to the application. The information and statements required to be in this written notice can be found in Business and Professions Code Section 8538.

In 2019, the Marin County Department of Agriculture investigated multiple complaints where tenants did not receive notice of pesticide applications from the structural pest control business performing the application. In these cases, the structural pest control business provided written notice of pesticides that were going to be applied to the property operator (property management firm) but did not provide that notice of pesticide application to the tenants whose apartments were being treated.

In addition to giving a notice before the application, structural pest control businesses (Branch 2 or 3) are also required to leave written notice after the application. The notice must be left in a conspicuous location and identify the name of each pesticide applied within, around or to any structure. More information on disclosure notice requirements can be found in California Code of Regulations Title 16 Section 1970.4.

Agricultural Pest Control Businesses and Maintenance Gardeners are required to give the operator of the property notice of the pesticide application (date of application, name of the pesticide, and any precautionary statements). Notice can be given orally or in writing, but we suggest you put the notice in writing, so you will have documentation that notice was given. The property operator is then responsible for making sure that notice is given to tenants or other people that may pass through the treated property. We suggest you remind your clients of their obligation to forward pesticide information to their tenants (see California Code of Regulations Title 3 Section 6618).

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Chlorpyrifos Cancellation

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) announced in October 2019 that virtually all agricultural use of the pesticide chlorpyrifos in California will end by December 31, 2020 following an agreement between the Department of Pesticide Regulation and pesticide manufacturers to withdraw their products.

All sales of chlorpyrifos products to growers in California will end by February 2020. Growers will no longer be allowed to possess or use chlorpyrifos products in California after December 31, 2020.

Recent research has shown that chlorpyrifos is associated with serious health effects in children and other sensitive populations at lower levels of exposure than previously understood, including impaired brain and neurological development.

In 2015, DPR designated chlorpyrifos as a “restricted material” that requires a permit from the county agricultural commissioner for its application. In addition, application of chlorpyrifos must be recommended by a licensed pest control advisor and supervised by a licensed certified applicator.

Chlorpyrifos is known by the following trade names: Lorsban, Dursban, Whitmire, Warhawk, and others.

If you have any chlorpyrifos in storage, please contact our Department immediately.

Pesticide Use Reports

Monthly Summary Pesticide Use Reports are due by the 10th of the month following the month of application. All Pest Control Business are required to file a negative (or “no use”) report even in months when no pesticide applications occur.

We strongly encourage all pest control businesses to submit pesticide use reports electronically through CalAgPermits. Please e-mail us at marin.dept.ag@marincounty.org or contact our office at (415) 473-6700 for assistance in setting up your Marin County account.

Finally, please be sure when you submit a pesticide use report through CalAgPermits, you check that it is accepted and that the status of the PUR is “OK”. If your reports show any other status (INC, ERR, DFT), please give us a call so that we can correct the problem. Most of the time, it is a simple fix.

If you have questions on these subjects or anything else pesticide-related, please contact the Marin County Department of Agriculture at (415) 473-6700.