

Alberta

Domestic Pesticides: Retail Vendor

The information presented in this fact sheet summarizes regulatory requirements for the retail sale of Domestic Class pesticides.

Compliance Inspection Program

Alberta Environment and Parks' domestic pesticide retail vendor Compliance Inspection Program is part of the department's overall Compliance Assurance Program. Conducted under the authority of the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, this program is the primary way the department ensures that retail vendors selling domestic pesticides comply with Alberta's environmental legislation.

Emphasis of Prevention/ Education

Inspections are designed to identify and correct non-compliance. Whenever possible, inspectors emphasize prevention and education.

No Prior Notice

The majority of inspections are unannounced. This ensures the program's effectiveness and credibility. How frequently a facility is inspected depends on its priority. The department assigns all facilities a priority rating based on a number of factors. These factors can include the following:

- Potential to cause an adverse effect
- Compliance history
- Environmental performance
- Time elapsed since the last inspection; and
- Public complaints

Companies with greater potential to cause an adverse effect or with a history of non-compliance can expect to be inspected more frequently than others.

Inspection Procedures

Inspections are generally focused on the following areas:

1. Anyone who sells a pesticide listed in Schedule 1 or 2 in Alberta is required to have a Retail Vendor Registration.
2. Anyone who sells a Schedule 1, 2, or 3 pesticide in Alberta is required to employ at least one Pesticide Dispenser (or certified Pesticide Applicator) at each retail outlet. A Pesticide Dispenser is a person 18 years of age or older who has completed a recognized dispenser training course and holds a certificate.
3. Each pesticide retailer is responsible for ensuring that:
 - Pesticides are stored and displayed in an appropriate manner;
 - Pesticide emergencies are responded to effectively; and
 - Customers are assisted with product selection and product use information.

Pesticides must be stored and displayed in a manner to prevent environmental contamination:

- Spill cleanup and protective equipment must be available for pesticide spills, and staff responsible for pesticides must be knowledgeable regarding pesticide spill cleanup and fire response procedures (pesticide dispenser training provides this information).
- Floor drains in pesticide display areas must be protected from release of a pesticide.
- Pesticides kept outdoors must be protected from rain, wind, and other weather hazards.

- Pesticide spills that result in a release beyond the outlet (including odours) must be immediately reported to the Alberta Environment and Parks 24-hour phone line at 1-800-222-6514.
- Pesticides cannot be stored within 30 horizontal metres of open water (unless authorized to store closer in a Special Use Approval) or on sites where the risk of flooding is less than a 24 hour, 1 in 25 year storm.

Pesticides must be managed to ensure that:

- Food, beverages and personal use items are protected from the possibility of pesticide contamination;
- Pesticides cannot be sold or displayed in grocery stores;
- Pesticides must be displayed a minimum distance of three metres away from food, beverages and personal use items and in a manner that is not likely to cause an adverse effect.

Failure to take the requested actions can result in enforcement action.

Inspection Follow-up

After each inspection, the department sends the facility a letter or report outlining the inspection's results. This would indicate areas of non-compliance and request a written explanation of how the situation will be corrected. Follow-up inspections ensure the appropriate actions have been taken.

Alberta Legislation (Pesticide Regulations and Codes)

Pesticide vendors must comply with all applicable requirements of Alberta's legislation. Copies of the Regulations and Codes can be obtained from the Queen's Printer Bookstores at:

Edmonton Bookstore

7th Floor, Park Plaza Building
10611 - 98 Ave, Edmonton

OR by telephone at: (780) 427-4952

For More Information

For more information on domestic pesticides, contact the Alberta Environment and Parks regional office nearest you.

- aep.alberta