




Chemical Applications – Other Than Landscaping

This activity applies to you if you use pesticides, herbicides or other chemicals for such purposes as removing moss from rooftops, killing nuisance rodents, and using fungicides to preserve patio decks. The over application of pesticides in these situations can result in stormwater contamination in much the same way as in landscaping activities. The pollutants of concern for stormwater management are toxic organic pesticide compounds, oils, and metals. Businesses/agencies engaged in this activity must comply with Seattle-King County Department of Public Health structural pesticide applicator regulations. The BMPs listed below are intended to complement other regulations. Application of pesticides for landscaping purposes must follow the BMPs discussed under Activity Sheet A-26, “Landscaping Activities.”

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS


The following BMPs, or equivalent measures, methods, or practices, are required if you apply chemicals for non-landscaping purposes:

-  1 Avoid excessive application. Follow manufacturers’ application guidelines and label directions. Chemicals must never be applied outside if it is raining.
-  2 Use the smallest amount of chemicals necessary to accomplish the job.
-  3 When applying chemicals on rooftops for moss control or other chemical treatment, downspouts must either be blocked or disconnected if the downspouts are directly connected to the storm drainage conveyance system in the roadway or to a flow control or water quality facility. The wash/waste water must be directed to pervious areas such as landscaping or gravel for infiltration or collected and disposed of to the sanitary sewer, or taken off site for appropriate disposal. To check if roof downspouts are connected to street drains, verify if downspouts go directly into the ground, rather than splash blocks. If the downspouts are tied directly into the ground, look in the closest catch basin on the roadway to see if a small (usually a 4 inch PVC) is connected or discharging into the catch basin which indicates the downspouts directly discharge to the roadway drainage system.

- 4 Clean up any spilled chemicals immediately. Do not hose down to a storm drain or conveyance ditch.
- 5 Do not spray pesticides within 100 feet of open waters, including wetlands, ponds, and streams, unless approved by local jurisdiction.
- 6 Unblock the roof drains or reconnect downspouts when the chemical application is finished.

ADDITIONAL BMPs

The following BMPs are optional unless the above minimum required BMPs do not provide adequate source control:

- 1 Manual pest control strategies such as physically scraping moss from rooftops, using high-pressure sprayers to remove moss, and using rodent traps should be attempted.
- 2 Integrated pest management (IPM), a comprehensive approach to the use of pesticides which minimizes pesticide application and stresses selection of proper products and tailored application rates, is the most effective BMP measure that can be taken. IPM is applicable to businesses that frequently apply pesticides.
 See BMP Info Sheet 6 in Chapter 5 for information on IPM.
- 3 Educate employees about the pollution they can cause if they do not follow simple rules of application.
- 4 Select the least toxic chemical application that can accomplish the job.

For more information or assistance in implementing these best management practices, contact the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Water and Land Resources Division at 206-296-1900.

Reader Note: The above requirements are the minimum required BMPs. If these BMPs fail to prevent discharges to the storm drainage system, you will be asked to take additional measures to correct the continued pollution discharges.