

# Pesticide Policy

## Background Information:

Increasing concern about the impact of pesticides on children's health has led to a law dealing with pesticide use in schools and licensed childcare centers. As of July 1, 2002, public schools and licensed child care centers must provide annual notification of their pest control policies and methods, establish a system to notify families of children and employees of planned pesticide use. (Chapter 17.21 RCW, The Pesticide Application Act).

The impact of pesticides on children's health can range from irritation to skin and mucous membranes, to difficulty breathing, rash or vomiting. Long-term exposure may lead to developmental delay, immune or endocrine system disruption or cancer.

In addition, children with special needs, asthma and allergies can be highly sensitive to pesticides and suffer from mild to severe reactions to pesticides and pesticide residues.

## Definition of a Pesticide:

A pesticide is a substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest. The term pesticide applies to:

- **Pesticides** (note: some fertilizers may contain pesticides)
- **Insecticides** (i.e. ant or roach killer, flea and lice control products) • **Herbicides** (i.e. weed killers)
- **Fungicides** (i.e. sanitizers, cleaners, mold and mildew cleaners, some pool chemicals for algae, including bleach (note: when bleach is used for general sanitizing [ $\frac{1}{4}$  cup bleach: 1 gallon water] it is NOT considered a pesticide).
- **Miticides** (i.e. mite control products; termite, dust, spider)
- \*Labels should be read carefully. The label will contain an EPA registration number.

## **Intent of Policy:**

This policy is designed to protect the health of children, meet RCW 17.21.415 and the Compliance Guide for the Use of Pesticides published by the Washington State Department of Agriculture. Full text of the law can be found at:

[www.agr.wa.gov/PestFert/Pesticides/docs/ComplGuidePub075.pdf](http://www.agr.wa.gov/PestFert/Pesticides/docs/ComplGuidePub075.pdf)

## **Intent of Child Care Center**

We are dedicated to using the least amount of chemical control of pests in our program in order to provide the healthiest environment possible for our children.

In order to control pests at St. Luke Preschool and Extended Day

(Child Care Center Name)

### **We attempt to PREVENT infestation by:**

- Taking out trash daily or more as needed.
- Cleaning trash cans regularly.
- Keeping trashcans or dumpsters covered and away from the building.
- Keeping grounds clear of food and rubbish.
- Storing food in sealed plastic or metal containers.
- Cleaning and sanitizing all dishes, utensils, and surfaces used for eating or food preparation after meals and at the end of the day.
- Preventing pest entry into facility by sealing cracks and holes, using and repairing window screens and door sweeps.
- Moisture control by maintaining plumbing and water drainage systems.
- Mechanically managing weeds.
- Planting native vegetation that is non-toxic.
- Mulching plant beds.

AND Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

**Integrated Pest Management (IPM) (definition)**

**IPM** is a pest management strategy that focuses on long term prevention or suppression of pest problems including the following six components: (**\*Must also be in compliance with RCW 17.21.415**)

1. Education of staff
2. Monitoring pests
3. Pest prevention (non-chemical)
4. Least hazardous approach to pest control
5. Notification of pesticide use
6. Record keeping

**Poison Control 1-800-222-1222**

**National Pesticide Telecommunications Network (NPTN) 1-800-858-7378**

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## **Policies and Records**

**\*\*\*If it is necessary to apply pesticides the following policies and procedures will be followed.\*\*\***

We do NOT regularly apply any pesticides to our facility/building nor do we use pesticides when students are present.

## **Notification of Pesticide Policy**

We shall provide written notification annually and upon enrollment to families of children and to employees describing the program's pest control policies and methods. Our policy will be made available to all families and staff for review annually. A copy will be in the classroom.

## **Record Keeping and Annual Summary/Notification**

We shall keep the records of all pesticide applications to center facilities and landscapes, including a list of active ingredients with St. Luke maintenance.

## **Building/Facility Application**

### **Pre-Notification**

We will notify families and staff at least **forty-eight (48) hours** before a building/structural pesticide application.

\*Application to the center must be made within **48 hours** following the intended date and time stated or the pre-notification process must be repeated.

\*The pre-notification requirements do NOT apply if the indoor application is made when the center is NOT occupied by children or staff for at least **two (2)** consecutive days after the application (i.e. Friday evening). \* The pre-notification requirements do not apply to any **emergency** application for control of any pest that poses an immediate human health or safety threat, such as an application to control stinging insects. When an **emergency** center application is made notification will be made at the time of application and the center will be evacuated and closed to protect children and staff unless area treated can be contained and inaccessible to children.

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## **Landscape/Grounds Application**

A landscape (school grounds) application is any pesticide application to exterior landscape plants, lawn or insect nest located on the childcare center property (including weed killers).

**Pre-notification** of pesticide application to child care grounds/landscape will be made to all families at least 48 hours before the application of pesticides using:

- **A system of notifying each family and staff member in writing (i.e. a letter sent home or email).**

## **Storage and Disposal of Pesticides**

### **A) Storage**

We do **NOT** store pesticides in the childcare building or on the grounds.

We will not store pesticides above foodstuffs due to the possibility of leakage.

Children will not touch or transport any pesticide or pesticide container.

## **B) Disposal**

There are strict rules for disposing of leftover pesticide product and its container. Pesticides and their containers may NOT be thrown away in regular garbage nor disposed of into our water supply (ground or sewer). We will follow the recommendations of the below agencies:

We will contact Washington Pest Consultants Association (WaPCA) for proper disposal recommendations of empty pesticide containers.

<http://pep.wsu.edu/waste/wapca.html>

Otherwise, we will contact our local solid waste program, call 1-800-cleanup (1-800-253-2687) or visit the Earth 911 website: [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org) for recommendations for disposal of leftover product.

In King County...

[www.govlink.org/hazwaste](http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste)

\*Unopened containers of legal products may be transferred to another legal user or may be listed on the Industrial Materials Exchange (IMEX) (206) 296-4899.

[www.govlink.org/hazwaste/business/imex/](http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/business/imex/)

\*Unusable pesticide product will be disposed of in a manner recommended by WSDA.

<http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/Pesticides/WastePesticide.htm>

(360) 902-2056

Waste Pesticide Program

P.O. Box 42589

Olympia, WA 98504-2589

## Pesticide Resources

### **Compliance and Support**

Washington State Department of Agriculture (WDSA)  
Pesticide Management Division  
1-877-301-4555 or (509) 663-9616 (David Zamora, Ph.D.)  
[www.agr.wa.gov/PestFert/Pesticides/Schools.htm](http://www.agr.wa.gov/PestFert/Pesticides/Schools.htm)

Washington State Legislature RCW 17.21.415  
[www.leg.wa.gov/RCW/index.cfm?fuseaction=section&section=17.21.415](http://www.leg.wa.gov/RCW/index.cfm?fuseaction=section&section=17.21.415)

Washington State D.S.H.S  
Division of Child Care and Early Learning (DCCEL)  
Contact according to Region  
[www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/dccel](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/dccel)  
Washington Administrative Code: Child Care Center (WAC's)  
<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/esa/dccel/pdf/0308ctrwacwtoc.pdf>

Washington State Department of Health (DOH)  
Pesticide Surveillance Program  
1-888-586-9427  
[www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/PEST.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/PEST.htm)

### **Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Resources**

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
[www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/#bkmrkl](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/#bkmrkl)

EPA - IPM for Schools "A How to Manual"  
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/schoolipm/index.html>

The IPM Institute of North America  
[www.ipminstitute.org](http://www.ipminstitute.org)

Safer Pest Control Project (SPCP)  
[www.spcpweb.org/childcare\\_ipm.html](http://www.spcpweb.org/childcare_ipm.html)

Urban Pesticide Strategy Team (UPEST)

[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/pesticides/upest/index.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/pesticides/upest/index.html) **Wind**

**Meters** (Search "Wind Meter" on any search engine)

Forestry Suppliers [www.forestry-suppliers.com](http://www.forestry-suppliers.com)

Weather Meter.Com  
[www.weathermeter.com](http://www.weathermeter.com)

## **Children's Health and Pesticides**

Beyond Pesticides

<http://www.beyondpesticides.org/main.html>

Children's Environmental Health Network

[www.cehn.org](http://www.cehn.org)

National Children's Study

<http://nationalchildrensstudy.gov/>

National Pesticide Information Center

<http://npic.orst.edu/>>

Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU)

<http://depts.washington.edu/pehsu/>

Physicians for Social Responsibility

[www.psrla.org/pesthealthmain.htm](http://www.psrla.org/pesthealthmain.htm)

The Precautionary Principle [http://www.biotech-](http://www.biotech-info.net/precautionary.html)

[info.net/precautionary.html](http://www.biotech-info.net/precautionary.html)

UW Center for Child Environmental Health Risks Research

<http://www.depts.washington.edu/ch>

