



New restriction on products containing chlorpyrifos used in public spaces

Information for Local Government and Industry regarding the use of chlorpyrifos products in public spaces

Background

As of the 26 July 2019, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), Australia's national regulatory body for agricultural and veterinary chemicals has suspended the use of domestic and home garden products containing chlorpyrifos. The APVMA also suspended the use of chlorpyrifos in public spaces and areas that children and pregnant women access, such as footpaths, playgrounds and schools. The decision arose from concerns regarding potential health impacts associated with long term exposure of the chemical in children and birds.

Chlorpyrifos is a widely used insecticide for treating termites, ants, spiders, cockroaches, mosquitoes, beetles, slaters and other insects. Application of products containing chlorpyrifos in some public spaces is currently still permitted, however treatment must be avoided in all areas that are frequented by, and accessible to, children and pregnant women.

Chlorpyrifos use in agriculture, biosecurity and under permit is still permitted. The APVMA is currently running a three month consultation process to consider the pattern of use of products under these categories, before making a proposed regulatory decision on their continued use.

Further details are available on the [APVMA website](#).

Can chlorpyrifos products continue to be used in domestic settings, gardens?

- Following this suspension, these products cannot be used in domestic and home garden settings. when used according to the existing label or permit instructions.
- There are currently 27 products that are affected by this announcement. For a list of these products refer to the [APVMA Special Gazette Monday 24 June 2019](#), Annexure A.

Why has the APVMA made this decision?

- The APVMA regularly reviews new studies and research to ensure products are safe to use and are effective in their treatment.
- Evidence indicates that chlorpyrifos has the potential to cause harm to mammals, including people.
- While the types of adverse effects are dependent on the level of exposure, the APVMA advises that young children and pregnant women are susceptible to lower concentrations.

- There is evidence chlorpyrifos may also affect birds consuming product granules, insects contaminated with the chemical or soil and water treated with chlorpyrifos.
- The APVMA cancelled the sale of chlorpyrifos products with concentrations greater than 50g/kg for domestic and home garden use between 2001/2002.
- This latest suspension affects the remaining 27 chlorpyrifos products for domestic and home garden use. The APVMA has expanded the suspension to include public spaces and areas accessed by pregnant women and children.

What are examples of public spaces included in the suspension?

- Common areas where pregnant women and children frequent include schools, hospitals, playgrounds, parks and gardens, reserves, footpaths, childcare and recreational sport facilities.
- Less common areas including public open spaces, shopping centres, eateries, care facilities, places of worship and accommodation areas.

What can I do if I want to continue using chlorpyrifos for industrial commercial purposes?

- You can continue to use chlorpyrifos products in accordance with the registered label for industrial and commercial areas until further notice.
- These uses are also [under review](#).
- It is recommended that you conduct a review of chlorpyrifos uses for your work and clients, and determine whether alternative products are available.
- The Department encourages you to consider using other suitable, less toxic alternatives, or where possible, employ the use of non-chemical treatments.

Where can I find information regarding alternatives to chlorpyrifos?

- Search the [APVMA PubCris database](#) to find other products suitable for your needs. The APVMA PubCris database lists all registered pesticides for use in Australia.
- Seek advice from the retailer or your supplier for suitable, less toxic alternatives.

I have used chlorpyrifos, do I need to be concerned?

- Like all pesticides, there was little risk if you followed the label instructions for safe use.
- Discuss any issues with your supervisor and/or safety and health representatives.
- Business managers can contact the [APVMA Chemical Review](#) team for more information, if required.

What do I do with my remaining unused stocks of chlorpyrifos?

- Contact your supplier for advice regarding return and collection of unused products.
- For regional local governments and businesses and/or where return to the supplier is not possible, you may dispose of remaining commercial stocks of chlorpyrifos products through [DrumMuster](#) or [ChemClear](#).

For further information please contact:

- For issues regarding the proposed regulatory decision on chlorpyrifos:
Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)
Phone (02) 6210 4701
Email: chemicalreview@apvma.gov.au
- For questions about safe handling and use of pesticides:
Department of Health - Environmental Health Directorate
Phone (08) 9222 2000
Email: ehinfo@health.wa.gov.au

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