



www.pesticide.saanich.ca

Saanich's Pesticide Bylaw

What is the pesticide bylaw?

The pesticide bylaw regulates that no person may apply or otherwise use pesticides (see inset box) for the purpose of maintaining lawns, trees, shrubs, flowers, and other ornamental plants on private land. It has been put in place to protect human health and the natural environment.

"Private Land" means any property that has residential use on all or part of the property. The bylaw applies to single family homes, duplexes, townhouses, apartment buildings, and condominiums.

What are pesticides?

"Pesticide" is a general term for any substance designed to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate injurious, noxious, or troublesome living organisms. The term "pesticide" encompasses more specific terms such as insecticides (for insects), herbicides (for plants) and fungicides (for fungal diseases).

Why are we concerned about using pesticides?

The risks associated with the use of pesticides include impacts to human health, non-target plants and animals (including pets), pollution of watercourses, and long-term contamination of soil and groundwater. The Canadian Cancer Society states that young children are at greater risk from the effects of pesticides due to their undeveloped immune systems, more permeable skin, and behaviours (e.g. playing on lawns).

Pesticide use contributes to the cumulative chemical impact on the natural environment.

The District of Saanich supports the "precautionary principle" regarding pesticides; being pro-active in reducing the possible threats to human health and the natural environment.

On January 25, 2010 Saanich Council adopted a pesticide bylaw. This means that residential pesticide use is generally no longer permitted on lawns and gardens.

To view a copy of the bylaw in its entirety, visit www.pesticide.saanich.ca.

Which pesticides ARE permitted under the bylaw?

The full list of low-risk permitted pesticides (*Schedule "A" of the pesticide bylaw*) is available on the District's website. A permit is not necessary to use these pesticides. Some examples:

- acetic acid
- corn gluten meal
- methoprene
- botanically derived pesticides such as pyrethrins and rotenone
- insect bait stations and pheromones
- insecticidal or herbicidal soaps
- mineral oils (dormant oil)
- sulphurs, ferrous sulphate
- diatomaceous earth
- biological pesticides including *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) and nematodes
- sticky traps and other sticky insect barriers
- Borax or boric acid
- aerosol sprays for wasps

Which pesticides ARE NOT permitted under the bylaw?

Some of the more common pesticides that are not generally permitted for use contain the following synthetic chemicals:

- glyphosate (as found in products such as Roundup, Sidekick, and many others)
- 2,4-D (such as Weed n' Feed, Killlex, etc.)
- malathion
- carbaryl (such as Sevin)
- diazinon
- mecoprop
- dicamba

Note that the example product names given are only a sample of popular brands and this is not a complete list of products or ingredients to avoid.

How is this bylaw enforced?

The use of pesticide products (unless on the permitted pesticide list) is not permitted on residential lawns and gardens. The first approach to bylaw infractions is educational. A second offence results in a warning ticket, and subsequent infractions will result in a fine.

A person who commits an offence is liable to a minimum fine of \$250 and a maximum fine not exceeding \$10,000.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Saanich Environmental Services | 770 Vernon Avenue | Victoria BC V8X 2W7
www.pesticide.saanich.ca | Phone: 250-475-5471 | E-mail: plansec@saanich.ca

BYLAW EXEMPTIONS

When does the bylaw not apply?

The bylaw does not apply to non-residential, commercial (such as golf courses), institutional, or industrial properties because municipalities, such as Saanich, do not have the legal jurisdiction to regulate these areas. Municipalities also lack the authority to ban the sale of pesticides. Our own golf course is subject to Council's Integrated Pest Management Policy which aims to eliminate the use of non-essential pesticides.

As well, the bylaw does not apply to the management of pests that transmit human diseases, impact agriculture or forestry, or are on or inside buildings. This includes farms and residential areas of farms.

How do I apply for a permit?

A person may apply for a permit for the use of pesticides that are not on the permitted list. Permits are considered by the Manager of Environmental Services if the following criteria are met:

- there must be a pest infestation that adversely affects a sensitive ecosystem or poses a serious economic loss; **or**
- a pesticide is needed to control a noxious weed or an invasive species; **and**
- the use of the pesticide must be shown to be "the last resort" following the principles of Integrated Pest Management; **and**
- the person applying the pesticides must be a certified pesticide applicator.

Conditions of pesticide application and requirements for posting signs are part of the permit and bylaw requirements. Please note that the control of broadleaf weeds, such as dandelions, would generally not meet the above criteria.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

How can I get involved?

Show your support for this region-wide movement and take the pledge to avoid using pesticides!

Visit www.crd.bc.ca/takethepledge

What are some natural ways to care for my lawn?

- Mow on a high setting to shade out weeds, to conserve moisture in the soil and promote root development. Reduce your carbon emissions by using a reel-type non-motorized mower.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn. This helps retain soil moisture, and clippings are a good source of fertilizer for your lawn.
- Water wisely - only 2.5 cm (1") per week. Better yet, save money and time by letting your lawn go brown in dry weather.
- Aerate and de-thatch as needed to promote water retention and air circulation.

What is Saanich doing?

Saanich Council recently passed a revised policy that governs how we manage pests on our public lands, such as parks and boulevards. The policy follows Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and demonstrates our commitment to eliminating non-essential pesticide use. The policy has the same high standards as the Pesticide Bylaw, making the policy and bylaw complementary.

In Saanich, our main pests are weeds. To control targeted weeds before they reach unacceptable levels, we use practices such as hand-weeding and deep mulching of horticultural beds, and controlled irrigation and fertilizing to maximize turf health. We are also using more native plants that are better adapted to our climate. This means our displays might not look as colourful or exotic as they did in the past, but they will be more sustainable and provide food for birds and beneficial insects.

In cases where a weed infestation poses a human health risk, such as Poison Hemlock, or an imminent risk to a sensitive ecosystem, and there is no viable alternative, we might use a pesticide. The decision to use pesticides is based on minimizing ecological and human health risks and must be submitted to the IPM Coordinator for approval.

What about the roadside?

Saanich has over 300km of undeveloped roadsides that are rough mowed 1-2 times per year (late May through July). Scheduling of the routes is adapted to suit efficiency, safety and sightline concerns and environmental considerations. In general adjacent homeowners are expected to look after the boulevards as they maintain their own property.

PESTICIDE DISPOSAL

How can I safely dispose of pesticides and containers?

There is no charge for dropping off pesticides at the following depots.

Hartland Landfill

#1 Hartland Ave.
Tel: 250-360-3030
Mon-Fri 9am - 5pm
Sat 7am - 2pm
www.crd.bc.ca

Ellice Recycling

524 David St.
Tel: 250-386-4342
Mon-Fri 7:30am - 5pm
Sat/Sun 8:30am - 5pm
www.ellicecycle.com

Alpine Recycling

1045 Dunford Ave.
Tel: 250-474-5145
Mon-Sat 8am - 4:30pm
www.alpinegroup.ca

What **NOT** to do:

Never flush pesticides down your toilet, sink, or storm drains. Do not put pesticides into the garbage, or bury them. These chemicals will harm septic systems, eventually leach out of the landfill, or your backyard, and contaminate the natural environment.

Gardening Without Pesticides

Sources of organic alternatives to pesticides, plus fact sheets on specific pests:

District of Saanich: For information on pesticide alternatives, please visit: www.pesticide.saanich.ca

Capital Regional District: A region-wide educational program to reduce the use of pesticides, providing information and workshops on alternatives. www.crd.bc.ca

Naturescape British Columbia: Learn how to restore, preserve, and enhance wildlife habitat. www.naturescapebc.ca

Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre: A local resource on organic gardening and offers a variety of workshops. www.compost.bc.ca

Society for Organic Urban Land Care: This society was formed in response to the growing need for ecologically responsible land care practices. www.organiclandcare.org

Gaia College: Offers courses in the design, installation, and maintenance of landscapes that preserve environmental health. www.gaiacollege.ca

Pacific Horticulture College: Offers accredited programs, as well as community education focused on environmentally responsible practises. www.hcp.bc.ca

REPORTING AN OFFENCE

If you are concerned about the possible application of a pesticide in a residential area, contact the District of Saanich Bylaw Office at 250-475-5456