

City of Takoma Park
Department of Public Works
publicworks@takomaparkmd.gov
Fax: 301-585-2405



31 Oswego Avenue
Silver Spring, 20910, MD
www.takomaparkmd.gov

**SAFE GROW ACT OF 2013:
CITY OF TAKOMA PARK RESTRICTS THE USE OF PESTICIDES FOR COSMETIC LAWN CARE**

NOTICE TO COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATORS

ABOUT THE LAW

On July 22, 2013, the Takoma Park City Council unanimously passed the Safe Grow Act of 2013. The law restricts the use of cosmetic lawn pesticides on private and public property within Takoma Park. This law makes it **illegal for a commercial pesticide applicator to apply a restricted pesticide for lawn care purposes on private property or public rights-of-way in the City as of March 1, 2014.** The law applies to private residents on July 1, 2015.

A written warning will be issued to all commercial pesticide applicators that apply restricted pesticides for lawn care purposes on private property or public rights-of-way in the City from March 1, 2014, through June 30, 2014. Commencing July 1, 2014, each prohibited application of a restricted pesticide for lawn care purposes is a violation and a Class D municipal infraction for the initial offense and a Class B municipal infraction for any subsequent offense.

WHAT ARE RESTRICTED PESTICIDES?

The list of restricted pesticides is available at www.takomaparkmd.gov/safegrow/list-of-restricted-pesticides

The City of Takoma Park's list of restricted use pesticides includes those identified as carcinogenic or likely to be carcinogenic to humans by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Class 9 pesticides by the Canadian Ministry of the Environment; and Class 1 Endocrine Disruptors by the European Commission.

The City also maintains a list of minimum risk pesticides and other alternatives that are allowed to be used for cosmetic lawn care. The minimum risk pesticide list is available at: www.takomaparkmd.gov/safegrow/educational-materials

POSTING REQUIRED NOTICE

The law requires a notice to be posted on any property where allowed lawn care pesticides are applied. The notice can be downloaded at www.takomaparkmd.gov/safegrow. The notice must be posted in a location visible to the public right of way closest to the area of application. The notice must remain in place for two days after application.

From March 1, 2014, through June 30, 2014, a warning will be issued to any applicator who fails to post the notice. After July 1, 2014, failure to post and maintain the written notice is a violation and the applicator will be issued a Class G municipal infraction.

ARE THERE ANY EXCEPTIONS ALLOWING APPLICATION OF RESTRICTED PESTICIDES?

A restricted pesticide may be applied to protect against an imminent threat to human health and safety and to control noxious growths, noxious weeds and invasive species. A waiver of the law may be provided if the applicant proves that they have exhausted all reasonable alternatives. A waiver request shall be submitted and approved before a restricted pesticide is applied. Persons granted a waiver must post a written notice readable and visible from the public right of way at the point closest to the area of application. The notice shall remain in place for at least two days following application.

WHERE CAN I GET THE WAIVER REQUEST FORM?

The waiver request form can be downloaded from www.takomaparkmd.gov/safegrow

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the Safe Grow Act please visit: www.takomaparkmd.gov/safegrow, or contact the Takoma Park Public Works Department, 301-891-7633