

Landlords: Do You Use Pesticides?

Often landlords or their employees apply pesticides in rental housing to get rid of bedbugs, cockroaches, or other pests.



Landlords or their employees do not need to be certified and licensed to apply pesticides, if all of the following apply:

- They make applications to property they own
- Do not accept payment for the application
- Use only general use (over-the-counter) pesticides

The label is the law.

You are responsible for reading the pesticide product label and following all the instructions for use – where to apply the product, how much to apply, how often to apply it, and what pests to use it on. If you assign an employee to apply the pesticide, you are responsible for educating them on the label requirements and ensuring that those requirements are followed."



Wisconsin law requires that you leave the following written information for your tenants when making an application to their residential structure:

- Name and address of the person who applied the pesticide.
- Telephone number where residents can get more information.
- What was applied (brand name, product name or common chemical name).
- Amount applied.
- Post-application precautions, such as time before re-entry to the treated area.
- If such a re-entry time is listed on the label, you must also post a warning sign at each entrance to the treated area.
- Date, starting and ending time of the application.
- Notice that a copy of the label is available on request.
- Specific description of where you applied the pesticide. For example, do not say “kitchen.” Say “behind the stove and under the sink.”

These requirements only apply to applications of a pesticide, other than a germicide, sanitizer, or disinfectant, to a residential structure where the pesticide applicator does not reside.

Landscape applications are not covered by these requirements in ATCP 29.55(3). To receive advanced notice of commercial for hire landscape pesticide applications, please see DATCP's landscape registry.

For more information:

DATCPpesticideinfo@wi.gov
(608) 224-4500



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,
Trade and Consumer Protection 2811
Agriculture Drive
P.O. Box 8911
Madison, WI 53708-8911

Laws governing pesticide use are found Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 94 (<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/94>) and Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter 29 (http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/atcp/020/29).