



Important Notice to Home Owners, Tenants, Gardeners and Landscapers regarding the use of Pesticides

In July 2008, the Township of Esquimalt adopted a Bylaw to regulate the use of pesticides on residential and public property. Enforcement of the Bylaw began July 14, 2009.

Pesticide Use Reduction Bylaw No. 2686 applies to all Esquimalt property owners and residents as well as landscape professionals and lawn care companies that do business within the Township of Esquimalt. The Bylaw does not apply to land used for agriculture, forestry, transportation, public utilities and pipelines unless the utility or pipeline is vested in the municipality.

What is a Pesticide?

Pesticide is the general term for any substance designed to eliminate undesired insects, weeds, rodents, fungi, bacteria and other organisms. Pesticides come in many forms and can be categorized as insecticides (for insects), herbicides (for weeds), and fungicides (for fungal diseases).

Why Do We Need a Bylaw?

The purpose of the Pesticide Use Reduction Bylaw is to protect the natural environment by regulating and reducing the non-essential [i.e. cosmetic] use of pesticides on lawns, trees, shrubs, and flowers. There are ways to maintain lawns and gardens without the use of pesticides.

Pesticides are often long lived and spread easily from where they are applied to other land areas and bodies of water where they may affect non-target organisms and plants. The cumulative effect of pesticide use on lawns and gardens can significantly impact our environment.



How do I know if a product is a pesticide? The best way to tell if a product is a pesticide is to check its label. Any product that has a Pest Control Product or PCP number near the list of ingredients is a pesticide.

Are there any pesticides that I can still use? A list of reduced-risk, "permitted" pesticides which are regulated for use in British Columbia by the Provincial Government is included as an Appendix to Bylaw No. 2686.

What if the alternative methods don't work? If there is an urgent need for the use of a pesticide and no effective non-pesticide alternative is available, residents may apply for a Permit for a particular pesticide subject to the terms of Section 5 of Bylaw No. 2686. However, applying for a permit should be the last resort if alternate methods of pest management have failed. Please contact Andy Katschor, Manager of Parks Services for information on the use of alternatives to pesticides at 250-412-8508. To apply for a Permit, please contact Barbara Snyder, Director of Development Services at 250-414-7146.

How will the Bylaw be enforced? Beginning in July and extending through September 2009, Bylaw Enforcement Officers will be focusing on educating residents and industry professionals about the new Bylaw. The first offence for non-authorized pesticide use will result in a warning ticket, the second offense will be subject to a \$100. fine and each subsequent offenses will be subject to a \$250. fine.

How to I dispose of pesticides? For information on how to properly dispose of unused pesticides and old pesticide containers visit the CRD website at www.crd.bc.ca/rte/pest/disposal.htm

How can I garden without pesticides? Information on gardening without the use of pesticides is available on the following websites:

- ◆ Capital Regional District <http://www.crd.bc.ca/rte/pest/index.htm>
- ◆ Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre <http://www.compost.bc.ca/>
- ◆ SOUL – Society for Organic Urban Land <http://organiclandcare.org/branches/Victoria/index.php>

For more information on Esquimalt's Pesticide Use Reduction Bylaw contact: Barbara Snyder, Director of Development Services, 250-414-7146

