
HEALTHY SCHOOLS

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Santa Clara County Department of Agriculture Update

May 2002

School District Presentation

Our Department recently held an informational training session with the maintenance staff from another Santa Clara County school district. They had some new questions and shared some information with us that we thought might be helpful for other districts.

Pest Control

Questions and Answers

Q1: We have a bat problem in one of our buildings. What do you suggest we do?

A1: The existence of a bat infestation poses a disease threat to your school as bats can carry rabies. It is also possible to get cystoplasmosis through contact with their guano. Vector Control suggests removing populations as soon as possible. A few pest control companies specialize in bat removal. We recommend you hire a company experienced with this kind of work. For more information you could call Vector Control at (408) 792-5010.

Q2: What is a good product to control ants? (Our Department is merely passing along information we have been given and does not endorse one product over another.)

A2: This school district has had good success with the material Maxforce®. This material is a brown colored bait that blends very well with dirt. Once applied, it is difficult to see. The key to the bait is to place it in the cracks and crevices along walkways or in the dirt away from buildings. (BE SURE TO READ THE LABEL FOR APPROPRIATE USE.)

Pesticide Safety

Questions and Answers

Q1: How often do I have to calibrate my spray equipment?

A1: It depends on the materials you use, the type of nozzle you are using, and also the type of equipment. Make sure you read your equipment maintenance manual and test your equipment periodically. Using uncalibrated equipment can result in over-application or in uneven coverage.

Q2: How often do I need to train my seasoned applicators?

A1: Every pesticide handler must be trained yearly regardless of his or her experience. These training records must contain specific training topics and must be kept for the current year plus two years back. The only exception is for employees that have a license from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. (A Qualified Applicator License or a Qualified Applicator Certificate) If an individual has one of these licenses they would be considered trained.

Q3: Do custodians who only use disinfectants and sanitizers need to be trained annually?

A3: Yes. The easy way to do this is to ensure that you are in compliance with your OSHA guidelines and are covering the pesticide safety training topics in your monthly safety meetings.

School Insurance Group

Safety Committee Meeting

Michelle Nachand and Laura Swan of the Santa Clara County Department of Agriculture will be at the School Insurance Group Safety Committee meeting on May 28th. We thought it would be a good opportunity to introduce ourselves in person and to meet some of you. We hope to see you there!

Pest Control Operators

Tips for hiring a responsible pest control company

We have talked before about some of the factors your district should consider when choosing a pest control company. Other than assuring the company is familiar with the Healthy Schools Act, we have a few more suggestions for you.

Agricultural Pest Control Companies:

Apply pesticides outdoors to control weeds and insect pests like aphids.

When hiring a company we recommend that you ask to see the company's County registration. Every agricultural pest control company must register annually with our office. To be eligible for registration they must first have a person on staff that is properly licensed, and the company must have a valid Pest Control Business License from the Department of Pesticide Regulation (which requires them to be insured, etc). If you require a company to show you their registration form, you know that one, they are licensed, and two, they are under our regulatory oversight. An example of a registration card is shown below.

Structural Pest Control Companies:

Apply pesticides to control pests of buildings such as ants, cockroaches, spiders, mice, etc.

These companies are licensed through a different State agency. Their county registration process is a little different too. Structural companies must have

a properly licensed person on staff to run the business, and they must have a valid Structural Business License from the Structural Pest Control Board. They do not receive a County registration card, but rather a receipt showing that they submitted an annual notice of intent to perform structural pest control within the County. If you hire a structural company, they should be able to provide you a copy of the County's receipt. Another option would be to call our office and ask if they have renewed for the current year.

If you wish to know if a Structural Pest Control Company has had any customer complaints logged against them, you can call the Structural Pest Control Board at 1-800-737-8188.

Santa Clara County Department of Agriculture

San Jose Office:

1553 Berger Drive
San Jose, CA 95112

On Duty Biologist office hours are 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
The telephone number is: (408) 918-4610

Morgan Hill Office:

605 Tennant Avenue, Suite G
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

On Duty Biologist office hours are 8 a.m. to 12 noon.
The telephone number is: (408) 779-0681.