

Pesticide Use Permit Application Process – FAQ's

District of North Vancouver
Environment Department - 355 West Queens Rd, North Vancouver, BC V7N 4N5

Questions about this form: Phone: 604-990-2311 or Email: enviopermits@dnv.org

Q. When did Pesticide Use Permits come into effect?

A. In June 2008, District Council passed the Pesticide Use Control Bylaw 7686 which took effect January 1, 2009. The Bylaw bans the “cosmetic use” of pesticides so that residents in the District of North Vancouver will no longer be able to apply certain pesticides to their property. These include types of fertilizers and sprays that contain weed killers.

Q. Which properties does the Bylaw apply to?

A. The Bylaw applies to all residential and multi-family properties, and any parcel of land used for residential purposes. The Bylaw does not apply to industrial, commercial or institutional properties or property owned by a utility and does not apply to applications on or inside a building.

Q. What does “cosmetic use” mean?

A. “Cosmetic” purpose is defined as: “*The use of pesticides for non-essential use, or where the application is for an aesthetic pursuit.*” Examples of the cosmetic use of pesticides, which is banned, would be to make a lawn attractive or to make fruits and vegetables perfect. For example, the use of Roundup (Glyphosate) to kill dandelions on a lawn is not allowed under the Bylaw.

Q. Is there a list of pesticides that I can use without a permit?

A. The Bylaw allows for the use of certain “safer alternative” pesticides without a permit. For a list of common pesticides that are allowed, please check “Pesticides Allowed for Use without Permit” on the District’s web site <http://www.dnv.org/article.asp?c=1054>. You can use any of the pesticides on this list without a permit. You can find a complete list of pesticides that are allowed for use in Schedule 2 of the BC Integrated Pest Management Regulation http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/604_2004#Schedule2. The District’s web site also contains information on alternative pest control methods.

Q. When do I need to apply for a Pesticide Use Permit?

A. If you wish to use something other than what is listed, a permit will be required. A permit will be issued ONLY if there is a documented threat to human or animal health or to a building. This must be supported by a letter from a doctor, veterinarian or pest control company as the case may be.

There is an interim process for the treatment of two invasive species (knotweed and hogweed) which are listed in the Provincial *Weed Control Act* and identified for targeted removal. A permit will be required and there are restrictions on pesticide use according to provincial regulations.

Q. What is the process to apply for a Pesticide Use Permit?

- A. Once staff has received a complete Pesticide Use Permit application, the Permit should be issued within 2 – 3 business days. The Permit can only be issued to a licensed Pesticide Applicator. The Permit is only valid for 6 months. Currently there is no fee for a Permit.

Q. Where can I take my left over pesticides and containers?

- A. Please take your pesticides and containers to the North Shore Transfer Station at 30 Riverside Drive, North Vancouver for proper disposal.

Q. I have a wasp nest. Can I spray it?

- A. Yes, if the active ingredient is listed in Schedule 2 of the BC Integrated Pest Management Regulation. You are permitted to use insecticides that are sold in “aerosol” cans, so you can use “wasp-killer” anywhere the nest is located. In addition, the Bylaw does not apply if the wasp nest is in or attached to your house.

Q. Can I use rodenticides for rats or mice?

- A. Yes, if the active ingredient is listed in Schedule 2 of the BC Integrated Pest Management Regulation. Please be careful that pets, wildlife and children do not gain access.

Q. Can I use “moss killer”?

- A. Yes. It is made from ferric sulphate, which is permitted.

Q. Can I use “slug bait”?

- A. You cannot use slug bait that contains metaldehyde. You can use slug bait containing ferric phosphate. This is a safe and effective alternative. Be careful which one you buy.

Q. Can I use a weed & feed type fertilizer or spray for weeds in my lawn?

- A. No. These types of fertilizers and sprays contain weed killers (i.e. herbicides such as 2,4-D, dicamba, and mecoprop) that are **not** permitted. Fertilizers without herbicides are okay.

What are the alternatives?

Tips on care of your lawn and garden are described in the brochures “Natural Yard Care” and “Waterwise Gardening” which you can find on Metro Vancouver’s website

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/solidwaste/Residents/yard/Pages/default.aspx>

Q. Can I use a fungicide on my flowers, garden or fruit trees?

A. No. Pesticides that kill fungi (fungicides) are not permitted, other than sulphur compounds.

What are the alternatives?

Place plants in conditions that minimize fungal growth. Fungi typically like dark, moist conditions so plant in sunny locations or under cover and prune to maintain open plant structure to promote proper growth, airflow and light to minimize moisture to interior foliage. Use plant varieties resistant to moulds and mildew. Prune diseased foliage or branches. You can try a spray using potassium bicarbonate, insecticidal soap or a sulphur compound. Check with your garden centre.

Q. I have aphids and / or scale insects in my trees and flowers – How can I get rid of them?

A. You can use a lime-sulphur or dormant oil spray without a permit in the fall to prevent emergence of scales and aphids in the spring. For most trees and flowers, lady bugs and small birds such as chickadees will keep the aphids and scales under control for you.

You can use insecticidal soap or insecticides that are sold in “aerosol” cans (e.g. “Raid”)

Q. There are termites and / or carpenter ants in or near my house – How can I get rid of them?

A. Termites and carpenter ants (and other structural pests) are difficult to control. If they are in your house, the Bylaw does not apply and you can spray for them, but it is recommended you hire a professional pest control company to do this.

If the termites or carpenter ants are outside and near your house, you will need to hire a professional pest control company to properly diagnose and assess the problem. If a pesticide application is warranted, then you will require a permit for the pesticide application based upon the assessment.

Q. Can I spray the weeds in the cracks and crevices in my sidewalk and driveway?

A. Yes, if the active ingredient is listed in Schedule 2 of the BC Integrated Pest Management Regulation. Please note that concentrated “acetic acid/vinegar” is a safe alternative and works very well for this purpose. This product is readily available from your garden center. In any case you should remove the soil / grit in the cracks after the weeds die in order to minimize regrowth and the need for frequent treatments.

Q. Do District of North Vancouver (DNV) projects have to follow the Bylaw?

A. Yes all DNV projects are expected to follow the Pesticide Use Control Bylaw. The DNV strives to adhere to the most current environmental best management practices in all of our operations and capital projects