



Who to Call: Pesticides Use in California

California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)

- **Role:** This is California's main regulatory agency for pesticides. If you believe there's a misuse or improper application of pesticide, you can contact DPR through their website or call their hotline.
- **Services:** The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) oversees all pesticide sales, use, licensing, and enforcement in the state. It ensures pesticides are used safely and do not harm people or the environment.
 - Approves pesticides for use in California (stricter than EPA).
 - Regulates and enforces pesticide use with County Agricultural Commissioners.
 - Protects workers through safety rules and training requirements.
 - Tests food for illegal pesticide residues.
 - Monitors air and water for pesticide contamination.
 - Licenses applicators and pest control businesses.
 - Your local County Agricultural Commissioner (CAC) — pesticide complaints or concerns at schools, homes, or other local sites are typically handled by the commissioner's office in your county. If you don't know your county's contact info, you can look it up via DPR or call their hotline for assistance.
- **Contact:**
 - **Phone:** (916) 445-4300
 - **Toll-free reporting line:** "1-87PestLine" (1-877-378-5463) — this connects you with either DPR or the appropriate County Agricultural Commissioner office to report a pesticide incident or concern. If there is an emergency — such as acute illness or chemical exposure — you should call 911 or if it's a poisoning concern and it's not life-threatening, contact the California Poison Control System at 1-800-222-1222
 - **Website:** [Home Page - Department of Pesticide Regulation](#)

California Schools

- **Role:** Ensures that pesticide use at California schools follow a strict process and that parents are informed when pesticides are used at their children's schools.
- **Resources:**
 - [Healthy Schools Act Compliance Packet for School Districts](#) - English
 - [Paquete de Cumplimiento de la Ley de Escuelas Saludables \(español, para distritos escolares\) — Espanol](#)
- **Contact information:**
 - Email: ENF.HQ@cdpr.ca.gov
 - Phone: (916) 324-4100

Assembly Bill 405 (Montanez) Sponsored by California Safe Schools

- **Information:** AB 405 was signed into law in 2005 Department of Pesticide Regulation. It amended the state Education Code to impose extra restrictions on pesticide use at school sites (K-12). Under AB 405,

the following rules apply for pesticides on California school campuses. The bill aims to protect school children, staff, and other campus occupants from exposure to lesser-tested or potentially risky pesticide products.

- Schools may not use pesticides on campus if those pesticides only have “conditional,” “interim,” or “experimental” registrations — in other words, if they are not fully registered and tested by the state or federal agencies.
- If a pesticide’s registration has been cancelled, suspended, or marked for phase-out, it also may not be used in schools.
- Vendors or manufacturers are prohibited from selling or giving those restricted pesticides to any school district.
- **Resources:**
 - Sustainable Pest Management (SPM) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) overview and Roadmap
<https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/spm-ipm-overview/>

Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)

- **Role:** For health-based info or concerns about exposure, you can also contact the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). They collaborate with DPR and pr OEHHA is California’s scientific health-risk assessment agency. Its job is to evaluate environmental chemicals and other hazards and determine how they affect human health.
 - OEHHA does NOT enforce laws—instead, it provides the science that guides California’s environmental and public-health regulations.
- **Contact:**
 - **Phone:** (916) 324-7572
 - **Website:** [OEHHA - Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment](#)

California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)

- **Role:** oversees the state’s environmental programs—including pesticide regulation—but does not directly regulate pesticides itself. Instead, CalEPA provides leadership, coordination, oversight, and policy direction for the agencies that do regulate pesticides. Oversees the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), the agency that actually regulates pesticide sales and use.
 - CalEPA consists of the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).
- **Contact:**
 - **Phone:** (916) 323-2514
 - **Complaints:** [Submit a Complaint](#)

South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)

- **Role:** SCAQMD does not regulate pesticide use directly (that is handled by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and County Agricultural Commissioners). However, SCAQMD does regulate the air emissions from certain pesticides and pesticide-related activities within its jurisdiction (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties).
- Oversees air monitoring related to pesticide emissions
 - SCAQMD may conduct or coordinate air monitoring for:
 - Fumigants (e.g., chloropicrin)
 - Other pesticide-related air pollutants
 - SCAQMD collaborates with:

- DPR (which regulates pesticides)
- OEHHA (which assesses health risks) to address air-quality impacts from pesticide use in the region.
- **Contact:**
 - **Phone:** 1-800-CUT-SMOG
 - **Website:** [SCAQMD Home Page](#)

California Air Resources Board (CARB)

- **Role:** CARB does not regulate pesticide use directly, but it regulates and monitors the air-quality impacts of pesticides, especially those that release volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and contribute to smog (ozone).
 - CARB Regulates VOC emissions from pesticides
 - Many pesticides—especially fumigants and certain agricultural chemicals—emit VOCs.
 - CARB sets statewide VOC emission limits to reduce smog and improve air quality.
- **Contact:**
 - **Phone:** 800-242-4450
 - **Website:** [Homepage](#) | [California Air Resources Board](#)

United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)

- **Role:** The EPA regulates pesticides mainly under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).
 - FIFRA requires that all pesticides sold or used in the U.S. must be registered (approved) by the EPA and that they cannot cause unreasonable risk to people or the environment when used according to the label. FIFRA gives EPA the power to approve, regulate, label, monitor, and enforce all pesticide use in the U.S. to ensure it does not cause unreasonable harm.
 - **Under FIFRA, the EPA must:**
 - **1. Register (approve) pesticides:** EPA reviews scientific data to decide if a pesticide is safe enough when used properly.
 - **2. Control pesticide labeling:** The label becomes law. Using a pesticide in a way not on the label is a FIFRA violation.
 - **3. Enforce proper use. EPA and states can:**
 - Investigate misuse
 - Issue fines
 - Stop illegal sales or distribution
 - **4. Oversee production**
 - Manufacturers must register facilities and report pesticide production to EPA.
 - **5. Protect workers and the environment. FIFRA authorizes EPA to set rules to protect:**
 - Farm workers (Worker Protection Standard)
 - Applicators (training + certification)
 - Water, wildlife, endangered species
 - The public from drift or contamination
- **Contact:**
 - **Phone:** 415-947-8000 (Region IX)
 - **Website:** [Contact EPA](#)

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

- **Role:** The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is a state agency focused on supporting California's agricultural industry. The CDFA also promotes California agriculture both within the U.S. and internationally.

Its main duties include:

- Food safety, ensuring safe food production and sales.
 - Animal health, monitoring livestock health and welfare.
 - Plant health, protecting crops from pests and diseases.
 - Sustainability, promoting eco-friendly farming practices.
 - Supporting farmers and ranchers with resources, education, and policy support.
 - Responding to disasters like wildfires and droughts impacting agriculture.
- **Contact:**
 - **Phone:** (916) 900-5201
 - **Website:** [CDFA Home Page](#)

California State Water Resources Control Board

- **Role:** The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards), collectively known as the California Water Boards (Water Boards), are dedicated to a single vision: abundant clean water for human uses and environmental protection to sustain California's future.
- Under the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and the state's pioneering Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the State and Regional Water Boards have regulatory responsibility for protecting the water quality of nearly 1.6 million acres of lakes, 1.3 million acres of bays and estuaries, 211,000 miles of rivers and streams, and about 1,100 miles of exquisite California coastline.
- **Contact:**
 - **Phone:** (916) 341-5250
 - **Website:**
 - [Home Page | California State Water Resources Control Board](#)
 - [Complaints: Water Rights Enforcement Complaints | California State Water Resources Control Board](#)

Information Compiled by California Safe Schools Coalition

