

Is Your Maintenance Gardener Licensed?



California Department of Pesticide Regulation

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and County Agricultural Commissioners routinely pay close attention to pesticides available to consumers, including those used on lawns and in home gardens. We urge all homeowners to check that their maintenance gardener has a DPR license if they use pesticides as part of their gardening services.

From 2005-2014, in California, nearly two-thirds of the reported illnesses from pesticide exposure came from non-agricultural settings such as homes, gardens, school yards, and golf courses.

You can make a difference!

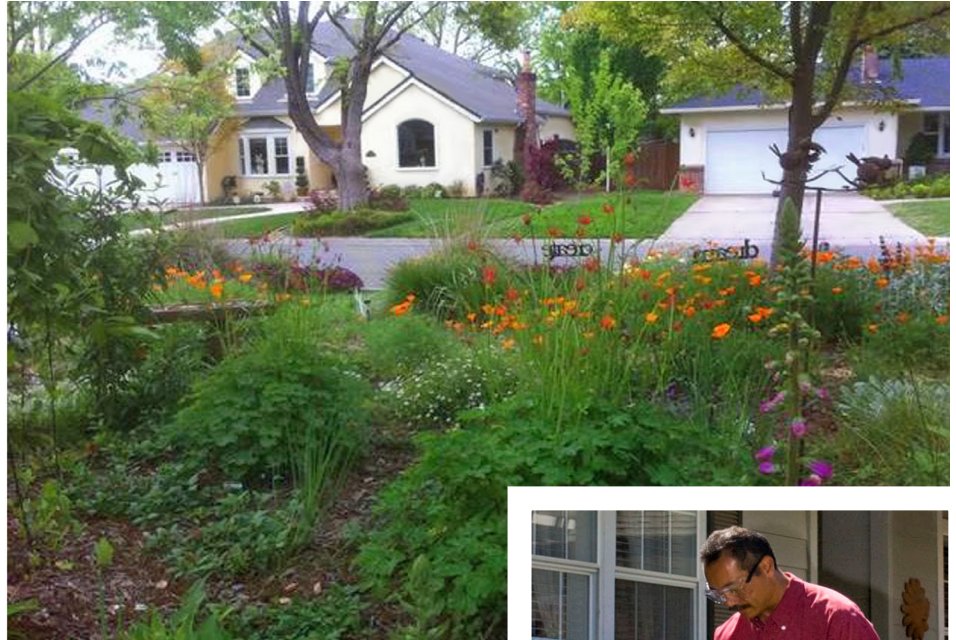
DPR ensures that pesticides can and should be used safely, so we are expanding our outreach to homeowners and consumers.

Homeowners are sometimes surprised to learn that their maintenance gardener may be applying pesticides containing toxic chemicals to their lawns.

Besides posing a significant risk to children and pets if used incorrectly, traces of pesticides used on lawns and gardens may run off the soil and enter local rivers, streams and wetlands via storm drains.

DPR scientists regularly monitor California rivers and creeks for pesticides. Water samples are showing that urban pesticides are present more and more in waterways downstream of the original use.

A maintenance gardener with a DPR license is competent to safely apply pesticides to avoid risks to human health and the environment. Even if you have a small lawn and use only a small amount of pesticides, when combined with other homes and businesses you could be adversely affecting aquatic life! A license from DPR ensures that the



Information on maintenance gardeners in English and Español:
<http://cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/maintgardeners.htm>

person applying pesticides is competent to use them on your lawn and outdoor garden areas.

What should homeowners do?

- Check that your maintenance gardener is licensed by DPR if they use pesticides. That is the law. You can easily find maintenance gardener licensing information on our website.
- Use only licensed maintenance gardeners when pesticides are needed. Licensed gardeners are more likely to use safer methods to better protect your family and the environment.
- Integrated Pest Management: check DPR's website for tips on how you can minimize the use of pesticides on your lawn, such as introducing



beneficial insects or using native plants which attract fewer pests.

DPR encourages the safe use of pesticides. It is everyone's responsibility and we can all work together to protect our environment.

Information on maintenance gardener pest control: <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/maintgardeners.htm>

En Español: http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/maintgardeners/spanish/maintgardeners_sp.htm