

Where do you call for information or to register a complaint?

Contact the San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures office nearest you:

2156 Sierra Way, Suite A
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

805.781.5910

350 North Main Street
Templeton, CA 93465

805.434.5950

810 West Branch
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

805.473.7090

Toll-free Pesticide Complaint Hotline
(Spanish & English)

1.800.528.9333



Scan

www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm



San Luis Obispo County
Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures
2156 Sierra Way, Suite A
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Is This a Legal Use of Pesticides?



HOW TO REPORT
CONCERNS ABOUT
PESTICIDE USE



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures is responsible for monitoring and regulating the use of pesticides to protect the safety of workers, the general public, and the environment. Through our pesticide regulatory program, we sample produce for pesticide residue, monitor pesticide use, audit pesticide use records, provide user education, and respond to complaints and questions about the legal use of pesticides.



Who uses pesticides?

- Homeowners
- Farmers and Ranchers
- Structural Pest Control Operators
- Agricultural Pest Control Businesses
- Landscape Maintenance Gardeners
- Water Purveyors
- Swimming Pool Maintenance Personnel
- Maintenance Personnel
- Health Care Providers
- Government Agencies



What is a pesticide?

A pesticide is any chemical that is used to control and prevent pests. The term pesticide includes:

- Fungicides – control plant fungus problems
- Herbicides – control weeds or unwanted plants
- Insecticides – control unwanted insects
- Rodenticides – control rodents such as squirrels, rats, and mice
- Disinfectants – control germs and other harmful organisms
- Other substances such as spreader/stickers, defoliants, plant growth regulators, and repellents.

In addition, many household products are registered as pesticides. The cleaners used around homes as well as ant sprays and garden products are all likely to be registered as pesticides.

What does the law require?

It is important to know what is and isn't allowed when using, storing and disposing of pesticides. Federal and State law requires that all pesticides must be handled in accordance with their registered label.

Pesticides must not be allowed to drift, runoff, move off target, or be used in any way not approved by the label. Some uses require that applicators first obtain an Operator Identification Number or a Restricted Materials Permit from the County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures.

Companies hired to apply pesticides must be licensed by the state and registered with the County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures before performing pest control work. They must have permission to treat someone's property, and they must give the property owner information about the chemicals being used. Commercial applicators include Landscape Maintenance Gardeners and Agricultural and Structural Pest Control Companies.

What should you do if you have a complaint?

If you suspect that a pesticide is being used incorrectly you should notify the County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures as soon as possible (preferably while the use is occurring) so that the situation is investigated immediately. It is important that you provide specific details of the incident, if known, such as who, what, when, where and why.

In addition, applicators using pesticides in an agricultural setting must report the use to the County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures. You may ask to review a pesticide report information by submitting a Public Records Act Request Form to the County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures.

How will your complaint be investigated?



The County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures staff will respond to all pesticide-related complaints. If a violation is found, corrective or enforcement action will be taken. However, legal action can only be taken against violations of laws and regulations over which the County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures has authority. Following are the steps that can be taken to investigate a pesticide-related complaint:

- Contact the parties involved
- Determine if a pesticide has been used
- Determine if a violation has occurred
- Take corrective or enforcement action if there is proof of a violation
- If appropriate, facilitate voluntary measures