

NEW PESTICIDE RULES TO PROTECT GROUND WATER ADOPTED BY WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Washington State Department of Agriculture has adopted new rules restricting the distribution and use of pesticides that may have potential to contaminate ground water.

**New rules for pesticides that contain one
or more of the 18 active ingredients
identified as having potential to
contaminate groundwater.**

The new rules, effective April 2, 1989, list 18 active ingredients which have been identified as having potential to move through soil into ground water either in their original form or as breakdown products. Pesticides containing these active ingredients may only be used by people certified by the department.

The products restricted include several commonly used pesticides such as atrazine and metribuzin. Ten additional pesticides, including 2,4-D and methylobromide, were included in the original rule proposal but were dropped from the final list due to information received at the hearing on January 24.

**"Records can help us determine local use
patterns of pesticides that potentially
could move into ground water. If any of
these pesticides are found in ground
water, we'll have the information we
need to help interpret those findings
and to develop ways to prevent future
contamination." -Mary Toohey**

Under the new rules:

- **Pesticide dealers** are required to keep records of sales of these pesticides for five years.
- **All applicators**, including growers, are required to keep records of all applications of these pesticides for five years.
- **Dealers and applicators** are required to furnish these records to the Department of Agriculture upon request.

Monitoring and Assessing Pesticide Impacts: A cooperative effort has been initiated by the state departments of Social and Health Services, Ecology and Agriculture to monitor and assess the impact of pesticide use on Washington ground water. As results become available from ground water mapping and monitoring by the cooperators and several federal agencies, adjustments in the list of active ingredients or other, more specific regulations may be necessary.

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Record keeping by private applicators is a significant new requirement in Washington State. Up until now, private applicators were not required to keep application records when they applied most pesticides. The new rules institute a records requirement for all private applicators when using the pesticides on the list.

Pesticide dealers, commercial applicator firms and public agencies have for many years been required to keep and retain records:

- Commercial firms and public agencies are required to keep application records on all other pesticide products not on the list for three years.
- Pesticide dealers are required to keep records for most pesticide products for one year.

Other provisions of the new rules clarify existing rules and repeal obsolete requirements, remove obsolete products from the state restricted use list, and continue existing requirements governing phenoxy herbicides in eastern Washington.

For more information or to receive a copy of the rules, contact:

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Pesticide Use - Due to constantly changing laws and regulations, no liability for the suggested use of chemicals in this Newsletter is assumed by the ONW Newsletter. Pesticides should be applied according to label directions on the pesticide container.

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