



This document is a model pesticide policy modified by the Snohomish County Health Department from a document produced by Seattle-King County Public Health.

Not all facilities approach pest management in the same way. This plan must be individualized for each child care center.

This document contains many sections marked in *red* that need to be filled in with specific information relevant to your center. Make sure to take out any red words in parentheses or in italics that were put in to help you complete this document.

Make sure you read through the entire plan as you work on it. If any items are unclear, contact Snohomish County Health Department Child Care Health Outreach Program or the Washington State Department of Agriculture for clarification.

Note: The table of contents has been set up so that it can be easily updated. Make all changes to the document, including any page breaks. When you are finished, click once somewhere in the middle of the table of contents which should select the entire table. Then right click, select “update field” and then “update entire table.” The table of contents will automatically update itself.

Name of Center: Country Dawn Preschool & Childcare	Phone Number: 425-334-3885
Address: 10315 20 th St SE	
City/State/Zip: Lake Stevens/Washington/98258	

Director's Name: Erika Barajas	Director's Emergency or Evening Phone Number: 425-346-8722
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Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222

National Pesticide Telecommunications Network: 1-800-858-7378

Background Information

Increasing concern about the impact of pesticides on children's health has led to a law dealing with pesticide use in schools and licensed child care centers. As of July 1, 2002, public schools and licensed child care centers must provide annual notification of their pest control policies and methods, establish a system to notify employees and families of children of planned pesticide use, and post signs where pesticides have been applied. (Chapter 17.21 RCW, the Pesticide Application Act).

The impact of pesticides on children's health can range from irritation to skin and mucous membranes, to difficulty breathing, rash or vomiting. Long term exposure may lead to developmental delay, immune or endocrine system disruption, or cancer.

In addition, children with special needs, asthma and allergies can be highly sensitive to pesticides and suffer from mild to severe reactions to pesticides and pesticide residue.

This policy is designed to protect the health of children, meet RCW 17.21.415 and the Compliance Guide for the Use of Pesticides published by the Washington State Department of Agriculture. Full text of the law can be found at:

<http://www.agr.wa.gov/PestFert/Pesticides/docs/ComplGuidePub075.pdf>

Based on model policies by the Department of Early Learning and Public Health Seattle-King County Child Care Program

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Intent of Child Care Center

We are dedicated to using the least amount of chemical control of pests in our program in order to provide the healthiest environment possible for our children.

In order to control pests at Country Dawn Preschool & Childcare

We attempt to PREVENT infestation by:

- Taking out trash daily or more as needed.
 - Cleaning trash cans regularly.
 - Keeping trash cans or dumpsters covered and away from the building.
 - Keeping grounds clear of food and rubbish.
 - Storing food in sealed plastic or metal containers.
 - Cleaning and sanitizing all dishes, utensils, and surfaces used for eating or food preparation after meals and at the end of the day.
 - Preventing pest entry into facility by sealing cracks and holes, using and repairing window screens and door sweeps.
 - Moisture control by maintaining plumbing and water drainage systems.
 - Mechanically managing weeds.
 - Planting native vegetation that is non-toxic.
 - Mulching plant beds.
- and*
- Using Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Pesticide Policy

Snohomish County Health Department
Policy updated in 2024

Table of Contents

Background Information	1
Intent of Child Care Center.....	2
Definitions	4
Pesticide.....	4
Integrated Pest Management (IPM).....	4
I. Policies and Records.....	4
A) Notification of Pesticide Policy.....	4
B) Record Keeping and Annual Summary/Notification	5
II. Building/Facility Application	5
A) Pre-Notification.....	5
B) Time of Application Notification (Facility/Structure).....	6
III. Landscape/Grounds Application	6
IV. Liability.....	7
IV. Storage and Disposal of Pesticides.....	7
A) Storage	7
B) Disposal	8
Appendix A – Example of Child Care Grounds Poster.....	10
Appendix B – Example of Child Care Facilities Poster.....	11
Appendix C – Pesticide Storage Sign Placement Map	12
Appendix D – Pesticide Application Record.....	13
Appendix E – Effective Date Information	14
Appendix F – Annual Notification of Pesticide Policy	15
Pesticide Resources.....	16
Compliance and Support	16
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Resources	16
Wind Meters	17
Children’s Health and Pesticides	17

Pesticide Policy

Definitions

Pesticide - A pesticide is a substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest. The term pesticide applies to:

- Pesticides (note: some fertilizers may contain pesticides)
- Insecticides (i.e. ant or roach killer, flea and lice control products)
- Herbicides (i.e. weed killers)
- Fungicides (i.e. sanitizers, cleaners, mold and mildew cleaners, some pool chemicals for algae, including bleach; when bleach is used for general sanitizing at 50-200ppm chlorine, it is NOT considered a pesticide)

Labels must be read and followed carefully. The label will contain an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registration number.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – IPM is a pest management strategy that focuses on long term prevention or suppression of pest problems including the following six components:

1. Education of staff
1. Monitoring pests
2. Pest prevention (non-chemical)
3. Least hazardous approach to pest control
4. Notification of pesticide use
6. Record keeping

We use the [IPM In Childcare](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/controlling/childcare-ipm.htm) guide to Integrated Pest Management. This manual can be found in the director's office or at the following website: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/controlling/childcare-ipm.htm>

IPM Procedures must also be in compliance with RCW 17.21.415.

I. Policies and Records

We do **NOT** regularly apply any pesticides to our facility/building.

If it is necessary to apply pesticides, the policies and procedures contained in this document will be followed.

When applying pesticides, the policies and procedures contained in this document will be followed.

A) Notification of Pesticide Policy

We shall provide written notification annually and upon enrollment to families of children and to employees describing the program's pest control policies and methods, including posting and notification requirements.

Pesticide Policy

Our policy will be made available to all families and staff for review annually.

A copy of this policy will be made available [Country Dawn' s front desk on our website](#).

B) Record Keeping and Annual Summary/Notification

We shall keep the records of all pesticide applications to center facilities and landscapes, including a list of active ingredients and copies of Pre-Notification and Notification postings, letters and method of distribution.

The Pesticide Application Record (see Appendix D) shall be completed for each pesticide application. We shall make the records of all pesticide applications including an annual summary of the records readily accessible to interested persons by contacting the director. As required by law the annual summary will include the product names of all pesticides, active ingredients, quantities of each pesticide, and amount of tank mix applied. The annual summary for the previous year will be made available for review and will be attached to the pesticide policy.

II. Building/Facility Application

A) Pre-Notification

We will notify families and staff at least **forty-eight (48) hours** before a building/structural pesticide application. The notification system shall include:

- **A system of notifying each family and staff member in writing** (i.e. a letter sent home or mailed)
AND
- **Posting** of the pre-notification in a prominent place in the main office of the childcare center, the front door of the center, and on the door to each classroom.

*Application to the center must be made within **48 hours** following the intended date and time stated or the pre-notification process must be repeated.

*The pre-notification requirements do NOT apply if the indoor application is made when the center is NOT occupied by children or staff for at least **two (2)** consecutive days after the application (i.e. Friday evening).

* The pre-notification requirements do not apply to any emergency application for control of any pest that poses an immediate human health or safety threat, such as an application to control stinging insects. When an emergency center application is made notification will be made at the time of application and the center will be evacuated and closed to protect children and staff unless area treated can be contained and inaccessible to children (seek advice from Department of Early Learning childcare licenser).

“Pre-Notification” and **“Time of Application Notification”** signs for facility/structure applications of pesticides (including school buses) shall be a minimum **of eight and one-half by eleven inches (8.5” x 11”)**, shall state the following, and shall include the heading:

“Notice: Pesticide Application”

Pesticide Policy

- The product name of the pesticide to be applied
- The intended date and time of application
- The location to which the pesticide is to be applied
- The pest to be controlled
- The name and phone number of a contact person at the center
- Notification signs shall be printed in colors contrasting to the background

(See Appendix B for an actual sign size example)

“Pre-Notification” **signs** must be updated if application differs from intended application with regard to product used, date or time applied, location pesticide applied, pest controlled, name or phone # of contact person.

B) Time of Application Notification (Facility/Structure)

“Time of Application Notification” **signs** shall remain in place for at **least twenty-four (24) hours** from the time the application is completed. In the event the pesticide label requires a restricted entry interval (REI) greater than **twenty-four (24) hours**, the notification **sign** shall remain in place consistent with the restricted entry interval (REI) time as required by the label.

III. Landscape/Grounds Application

A landscape (school or childcare grounds) application is any pesticide application to exterior landscape plants, lawn or insect nest located on the childcare center property (including weed killers).

A) Pre-notification of pesticide application to childcare grounds/landscape will be made to all families at least 48 hours before the application of pesticides using:

- A **system of notifying each family and staff member in writing** (i.e. a letter sent home or mailed) AND
- **Posting** of the pre-notification letter in a prominent place in the main office of the childcare center, the front door of the center, and on the door to each classroom.

B) At the time of pesticide application **notification signs** will be **posted** for all pesticide applications made to childcare grounds unless the application is otherwise required to be posted by a certified applicator under the provisions of RCW 17.21.410(1)(d).

Notification signs for applications made to childcare grounds by childcare employees shall be placed at the location of the application and at each entry point to the area being treated. Several signs will be posted when large areas are treated. Signs will also be posted in a prominent place in the main office of the childcare center, the front door, and on the door to each classroom.

Pesticide Policy

The signs shall be a minimum of **four inches by five inches (4" x 5")** and shall include the words:

“THIS LANDSCAPE HAS BEEN RECENTLY SPRAYED OR TREATED WITH PESTICIDES BY YOUR CHILD CARE CENTER”

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:

_____ (Person)
AT _____ (Phone Number)

These signs shall be placed at least twelve inches (12”) from the ground. Signs shall remain in place for a minimum of 24 hours or longer if specified by the restricted entry interval (REI) time on the pesticide label.

**See actual size example in Appendix A.

IV. Liability

We are not liable for the removal of signs by unauthorized persons. We may not be held liable for personal property damage or bodily injury resulting from signs that are placed as required.

Center employees do not need to be licensed to apply pesticides unless they are using state or federally restricted use pesticides or using motorized, mechanical, or pressurized power equipment (does not include pressurized backpacks or handheld spray cans).

IV. Storage and Disposal of Pesticides

A) Storage

We do **NOT** store pesticides in the childcare building or on the grounds.

If pesticides are stored in the childcare building or on the grounds, the WSDA rules for storage of pesticides are followed:

1. We will not store pesticides above foodstuffs due to the possibility of leakage.
2. Children will not touch or transport any pesticide or pesticide container.
3. Pesticides with the signal words of **“Danger”**, **“Warning”**, or **“Caution”** will be stored in secured storage out of reach of children in an acceptable enclosure (see below).

Pesticide Policy

4. In order to prevent children or unauthorized persons from gaining access to the pesticides, pesticides with signal words “**Danger/Poison**” will be stored in an **acceptable locked and posted enclosure** such as:
 - A building or room or fenced area with a fence at least 6 feet high
 - A footlocker or other container which can be locked
 - A bulk storage container fifty (50) gallons and larger with tight screw-type bungs and/or secured or locked valves.
 - Metal containers twenty-eight gallons and larger with screw-type bungs and/or secured and locked valves.
 - Sealed five (5) gallon containers (requiring a tool to unseal)
5. We will post warning signs for storage areas containing pesticides with the signal words “Danger/Poison”. In letters large enough to be legible from thirty (30) feet away, these warning signs shall contain a danger symbol and shall state:



**“DANGER” POISON STORAGE AREA
KEEP OUT**

For required placement of warning signs please see Appendix C.

B) Disposal

There are strict rules for disposing of leftover pesticide product and its container.

Pesticides and their containers may **NOT** be thrown away in the regular garbage nor disposed of into our water supply (ground or sewer).

We will follow the recommendations of the below agencies:

- We will contact the Washington State Department of Agriculture Pesticide Disposal Program for proper disposal recommendations of unused pesticides and/or empty pesticide containers: 1-877-301-4555, select option 1, then option 5
<http://agr.wa.gov/pestfert/pesticides/wastepesticide.aspx>
- Otherwise, we will contact our local public health solid waste program. In Snohomish County, contact the Snohomish County Health Department Solid Waste & Toxics Program at 425-339-5250.

Pesticide Policy

Snohomish County Health Department
Policy updated in 2024

* Unopened containers of legal products may be transferred to another legal user or may be listed on the Industrial Materials Exchange (IMEX) (206) 296-4899.

<http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/business/imex/>

Appendix A – Example of Child Care Grounds Poster

**This Landscape Has Been
Recently Sprayed or Treated
With Pesticides by
Your Child Care Center**

**For More Information
Please Call JOHN DOE
At 425-123-7890**

Pesticide Policy

Snohomish County Health Department
Policy updated in 2024

Notice: Pesticide Application

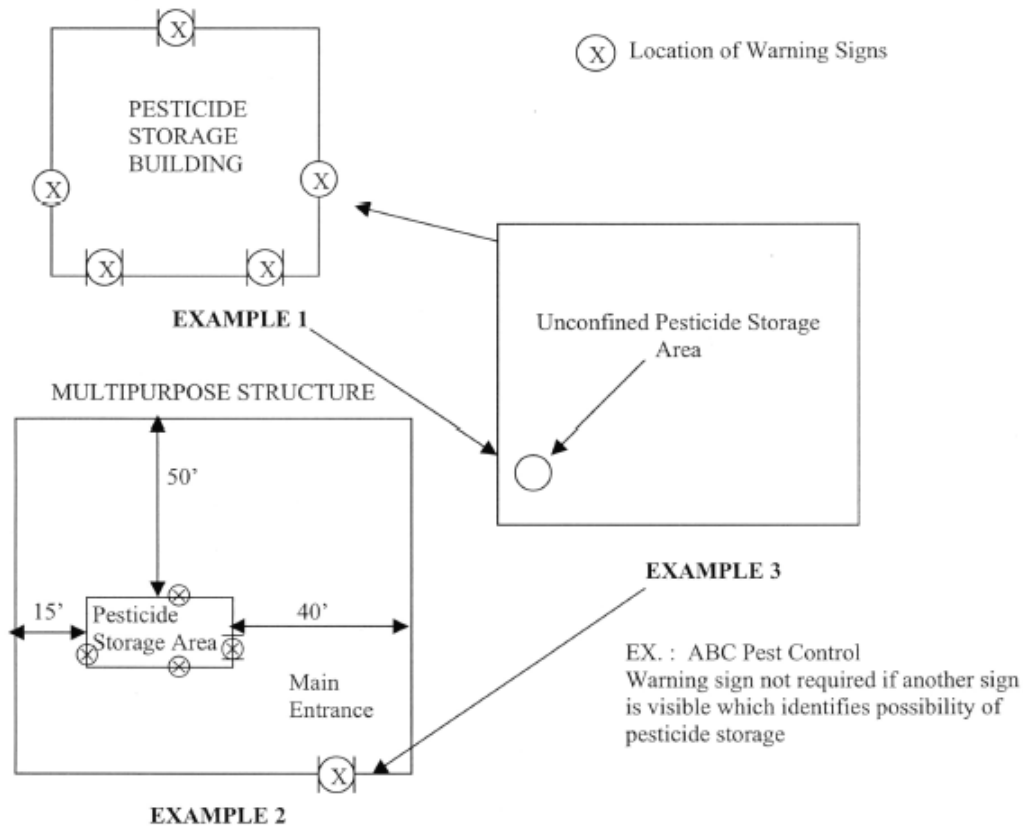
- Product Name:
Raid Ant and Roach Killer
- Date and Time of Application:
April 1, 2003 at 6:00 PM
- Location to which the Pesticide was applied:
Under the sink in the kitchen
- Pest to be Controlled:
Cockroaches

Contact Person: John Doe

**Contact Telephone Number:
(360) 555-5555**

Appendix C – Pesticide Storage Sign Placement Map

Posting of Danger/Poison Pesticides



Placement of Warning Signs

The type of storage facility determines the placement of warning signs. The storage unit itself must have a sign on each exterior wall and at each exit and entrance (see Example 1). If the storage unit is contained within a larger, multipurpose structure it again must have the signs as indicated plus there must be a sign at the main entrance to the building* and on each exterior wall of the multipurpose structure that is within 30 feet of the pesticide storage unit (see example 2). A multipurpose structure which houses an unconfined pesticide storage area (see example 3) must be posted as in example 1.

*Note: Posting of the main entrance is not required if a sign is visible from the entrance, which clearly identifies the possibility that pesticides may be stored on the premises (i.e. ABC Pest Control).

Pesticide Policy

Appendix D – Pesticide Application Record

Note: This Application Record must be completed same day as the application, and it must be retained for 7 years (Ref.17.21)

1. Date of Application – Year _____ Month _____ Day _____ Time _____
2. Name of Person for whom the pesticide was applied _____
 Firm Name (if applicable) _____
 Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
3. Name of person(s) who applied the pesticide _____
 License No(s) if applicable _____
4. Licensed Applicator's Name _____
 Address _____ phone# _____
5. Application site _____
6. Total Area Treated (acre, sq. ft. etc.) _____

7. Pesticide Information (please list all information for each pesticide used or mixed):

Product Name	EPA Reg #	Total Amt prod.	Pesticide/ft ²	Concentration*
			/	
			/	
			/	
			/	

* Concentration must be according to label.

8. Address or exact location of application. _____ NOTE: if the application is made to one acre or more of agricultural land, the field location must be shown on the map on page two of this form.
9. Wind direction and estimated velocity during the application: _____
 A wind meter must be used to assess wind direction and velocity (direction wind is coming from).
10. Temperature during the application: _____
11. Apparatus license plate number (if applicable): _____
12. Circle application type: Air Ground Chemigation
13. Miscellaneous Information: _____

Approved by the WA State Dept. of Agriculture; adapted from WSDA's Pesticide Application Record (Version 1).

Pesticide Policy

Appendix E – Effective Date Information

This policy was put into effect on 10/21/2024

By: Erika Barajas

Reviewed by Julie Bliven

*All changes in policy or procedure will be made to this written document and all staff members and attending families will be made aware of those changes as they are made.

Pesticide Resources

Compliance and Support

Washington State Department of Agriculture (WDSA)
Pesticide Management Division
1-877-301-4555
<http://agr.wa.gov/pestfert/pesticides/schools.aspx>

Washington State Legislature
RCW 17.21.415
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=17.21.415>

Washington State Department of Early Learning
Contact according to Region
<http://www.del.wa.gov/>
Washington Administrative Code: Child Care Center (WAC's)
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=170-295>

Washington State Department of Health (DOH)
Pesticide Program
1.877.485.7316
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/Pest/>

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Resources

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/index.htm>

EPA – IPM in Child Care
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/controlling/childcare-ipm.htm>

The IPM Institute of North America
<http://www.ipminstitute.org/>

Safer Pest Control Project (SPCP)
<http://midwestpesticideaction.org/>

Washington State Department of Ecology
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/toxicfreetips/saferschools.html>

Pesticide Policy

Wind Meters (Search “Wind Meter” on any search engine)

Forestry Suppliers

<http://www.forestry-suppliers.com/>

Weather Hawk

<http://weatherhawk.com/wind-meters>

Children’s Health and Pesticides

Beyond Pesticides

<http://www.beyondpesticides.org/>

Children’s Environmental Health Network

<http://www.cehn.org/>

National Children’s Study

<https://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov/>

National Pesticide Information Center

<http://npic.orst.edu/>

Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU)

<http://depts.washington.edu/pehsu/>

Physicians for Social Responsibility

<http://www.psr.org>

UW Center for Child Environmental Health Risks Research

<http://depts.washington.edu/chc/>

Pesticide Policy