

## The role of DEC officers

In NSW, Regional Officers from the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) provide advice and enforce the Pesticides Act 1999. The Act controls possession and use of pesticides in NSW, and is administered by the DEC.

Regional Officers investigate complaints from the public about suspected misuse of pesticides and investigate reports of illegal chemical residues in foods. If you use pesticides, it is important that you understand the restrictions and obligations placed on all pesticide users.

### For example:

- You may only use a pesticide according to all the label directions, unless you have a permit that allows you to do something else. As well as directions for mixing and rates for use, this includes directions for storage and disposal, personal safety and withholding periods.
- You must read and be familiar with the labels of the pesticides you are going to use.
- You must use pesticides responsibly and avoid harm from spray drift, careless disposal of containers or careless disposal of unused spray mix or tank washings.
- You must not deliberately use a pesticide to cause damage to another person's property or injury to another person.
- You cannot tell anyone that they can use a pesticide in a way that is not stated on the label.

### How Regional Officers can help you?

Regional Officers can answer the following questions:

- Is a particular pesticide registered?
- Can I legally use a pesticide on a given crop, weed or insect pest?
- How can I apply for permits from the National Registration Authority in Canberra to use a pesticide off-label?
- What can I tell other people about how they can use pesticides?
- What are my rights and obligations when other people complain about pesticides being used?
- How should I store my pesticides?
- What sort of things can happen if I get into trouble with the pesticide law?

Regional Officers can also talk to industry and community groups and provide information about:

- Pesticide law - what it is and how it affects you.
- Spray drift.
- Pesticide labels - how to read them.
- Withholding periods before harvesting produce.
- Sampling for pesticide residues.
- Pesticide disposal.



## **Metropolitan Sydney DEC Offices**

### **Sydney**

02 9995 5000

### **Parramatta**

02 9995 5000

## **NSW regional DEC offices**

See the DEC information site at [www.dec.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au)  
or phone the DEC's Information Centre on 131 555  
for your nearest regional office.

### **Albury**

02 6022 0600

### **Griffith**

02 6969 0700

### **Armidale**

02 6773 7000

### **Newcastle**

02 4908 6800

### **Bathurst**

02 6332 7600

### **Queanbeyan**

02 6122 3100

### **Dubbo**

02 6841 9800

### **Wollongong**

02 4226 4100

### **Grafton**

02 6640 2500

## **Other help**

NSW Agriculture, Croplife, WorkCover and  
the Poisons Information Centre provide useful  
information for pesticide users.

### **NSW DPI**

Ph: 02 6391 3100

[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

### **CropLife Australia**

Ph: 02 6230 6399

[www.croplifeaustralia.org.au](http://www.croplifeaustralia.org.au)

### **WorkCover Information Centre**

Ph: 131 050

[www.workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au)

### **Poisons Information Centre**

Ph: 131 126

*For more information on this series, contact Sandra Hardy, NSW  
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