



# COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

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## COLORADO CHEMIGATION ACT STATE OF COLORADO TITLE 35 ARTICLE 11

## CHEMIGATION LAWS

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The Colorado Chemigation Act provides for regulation of chemigation by setting standards for equipment and establishing procedures for inspection.

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## Chemigation Laws

### What is chemigation?

Chemigation is a system for applying chemicals (fertilizers, pesticides, etc.) to land or crops with water by means of a closed irrigation system. This most often is used on agricultural land but might be used on irrigation systems used on turf or in greenhouses. (See Pesticide Fact Sheet [Chemigation](#)).

### Why do we need to regulate chemigation?

The major purpose in regulating chemigation is to prevent contamination of groundwater. This is done by setting standards for the installation and maintenance of anti-siphoning devices. Regulation is done in conjunction with groundwater management districts.

### Who needs a chemigation permit?

You need a permit if you have any of the following:

- one well – one injection site
- one well – multiple injection sites
- multiple wells – one injection site

### How do I get a permit?

1. Complete the chemigation permit
2. Certify that the irrigation system meets all standards
3. Pay the permit fee
4. Permits are good for one year. They expire on March 31 of each year

### What equipment is required?

1. Backflow prevention check valve and vacuum relief valve between main check valve and the irrigation pump
2. Inspection port for check valve
3. Automatic low-pressure drain between main check valve and irrigation pump. This will drain chemical away from the water source
4. Check valve on the irrigation line
5. Simultaneous interlock device between power system of chemical injector system and irrigation pump plant

## **What is the process for inspection?**

1. An irrigation system may be inspected once every two years
2. You will be notified of the time and date of inspection
3. You are entitled to be present at the inspection
4. You will be billed for an inspection fee, which must be paid within 45 days of the inspection
5. If you refuse access to an inspector, an inspection warrant can be issued and the system inspected
6. Any irrigation system without a permit can be inspected if there is reasonable cause to suspect a violation of the [Colorado Chemigation Act](#)
7. Many groundwater management districts work with the [Colorado Department of Agriculture](#) to carry out inspections and enforce the [Colorado Chemigation Act](#)

## **References and Resources**

*Colorado Chemigation Act*. Title 35, Article 11, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry, Lakewood, CO. <http://www.ag.state.co.us/DPI/Chemigation/ChemAct.pdf>

*Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Administration and Enforcement of the Colorado Chemigation Act*. Title 35, Article 11. Colorado Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry, Lakewood, CO. <http://www.ag.state.co.us/DPI/Chemigation/ChemR&R.pdf>

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