



# COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

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## PRIVATE PESTICIDE LICENSES - DO YOU NEED ONE?

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This fact sheet outlines what is required of private pesticide applicators in Colorado.

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## Private Pesticide Applicator Licenses - Do You Need One?

The [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) regulates the distribution and use of pesticides under the [Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act](#) (FIFRA). Under this law, all pesticide uses are classified as either general use or restricted use (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [The Pesticide Label](#)). Restricted use pesticides (RUPs) can be bought and used only by persons who are certified. In Colorado, private pesticide applicators (farmers, ranchers, and greenhouse growers) are certified by the [EPA Region 8](#).



### Who is a private applicator?

A private pesticide applicator is someone who uses or supervises the use of RUPs to produce an agricultural commodity on:

- Personally owned property
- Rented property
- Property owned by his or her employer
- Property under his or her general control
- The property of another person if applied without compensation, other than the trading of personal services between producers of agricultural commodities

Applicators whose use situation does not fit the definition of a private applicator should contact the [Colorado Department of Agriculture](#) regarding procedures to obtain a commercial applicator certification (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [How Do You Get and Renew Commercial Licenses?](#)).

### Do I need to be a private applicator if I do not use restricted use pesticides?

No license is required to apply general use pesticides to produce agricultural commodities.

## **Can I apply restricted use pesticides as a homeowner?**

Homeowners licensed as private applicators may NOT purchase restricted use pesticides for use on areas including:

- Noxious weeds in areas where agricultural commodities are not being produced
- Personal greenhouses
- Backyard vegetation
- Lawns
- Home gardens
- Pets
- Household pests

## **How do I get certified?**

1. Obtain the Colorado Private Pesticide Applicator Training Manual, available at:  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8  
Pesticide Publications -- MAIL CODE 8P-P3T  
999 18th Street, Suite 300  
Denver, Colorado 80202-2466  
1-800-227-8917
2. EPA will mail a packet including the Private Pesticide Applicator Training Manual, a questionnaire, an answer sheet, and an application form for certification.
3. Review the manual and complete every question in the questionnaire. Mark your answers on the answer sheet.
4. Fill out the application form for certification completely and accurately.
5. Send the signed application form and answer sheet to:  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8  
Pesticide Applicator Certification (8P-P3T)  
999 18th Street, Suite 500  
Denver, Colorado 80202-2466
6. When the completed application form and answer sheet are received by EPA, they will be processed and an applicator certificate will be mailed within 45 days. If, in EPA's opinion, you did not make a reasonable effort to answer the questions correctly, the questionnaire will be returned to you and further study will be recommended.

## **How do I renew a Private Applicator License?**

1. Licenses are valid for 4 years.
2. Licenses expire 4 years after the date of issuance by EPA.
3. You must recertify every four years to purchase and use restricted use pesticides. Follow the certification steps above to recertify.



A Colorado Private Applicator certification card authorizes the purchase and use of restricted use pesticides only as described above. Purchasing restricted use pesticides require that you keep records of where, when, and how much pesticide you apply on any property. Failure to do so is against the law and penalties can be imposed on you. The [United States Department of Agriculture](#) (USDA) has the authority to inspect your application records at any time to determine if you are applying the products according to the label.

### **References and Resources**

*Certification of Pesticide Applicators*. 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1; Environmental Protection Agency, Part 171. <http://www.pestlaw.com/x/cfr/part171.htm>.

*Colorado Private Pesticide Applicator Training Manual*. 1997. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8, Denver, CO.

Environmental Protection Agency Region 8. [http://www.epa.gov/region8/toxics\\_pesticides/pests/pesthme.html](http://www.epa.gov/region8/toxics_pesticides/pests/pesthme.html).

*Private and Commercial Classification*, 2003. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pesticide Programs, Washington D.C. <http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/safety/applicators/privcomm.htm>.

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