

Pesticides

If you use any pesticide incidental to your gardening or landscape business, you must have a Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business License from the state Department of Pesticide Regulation.

Pesticides are defined as herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, and any substance used to control pests including weeds, snails, slugs, and gophers. Some examples of common home-use pesticides used by Maintenance Gardeners are Round-up, Gopher-Getter, Trimec and Malathion. Some fertilizers contain pesticides.

When these and other pesticides products are used as part of a gardening service, your business is required to be licensed by the state Department of Pesticide Regulation and you need to register annually with the Agricultural Commissioner's Office in the county in which you use pesticides.



California has the Nation's toughest pesticide laws to protect the environment and its citizens. Improper use of pesticides has the potential to contaminate our soil, water, food and air and can cause hazards to humans and the environment.

San Mateo County Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures

728 Heller Street * P.O. Box 999
Redwood City, CA 94064-0999
Phone: (650) 363-4700
Fax: (650) 367-0130
E-Mail: SMateoAG@smcgov.org
www.smcgov/agwm



**Do you use
pesticides as part
of your gardening
business?**



Do
you
use
one of
these?

Your business needs a
Maintenance Gardener
Pest Control Business License
issued by
California Department of
Pesticide Regulation

Qualifying your Business to Apply Pesticides



In order to get a Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business License, someone from your business must first

obtain a Qualified Applicator Certificate in Category Q (Maintenance Gardener) or Category B (Landscape Maintenance) by passing an exam to test your knowledge of safe pesticide application practices. Category Q limits your pesticide use to non-restricted (less toxic) pesticides. Exams are given by the Department of Pesticide Regulation (www.cdpr.ca.gov).

In addition, you must provide proof of financial responsibility for your business.

The San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner's Office is the local agency responsible for enforcing California's pesticide laws and regulations in San Mateo County.

Failure to comply with laws and regulations for pesticide use may result in fines of \$50 to \$5000 per violation.

Qualified Applicator Certificate (QAC)	
One time new applicant fee	\$40

Qualified Applicator Certificate Exam	
Pass exam for either Maintenance Gardener Category (Q) or Landscape Maintenance Pest Control Category (B). Continuing Education hours are required every 2 years to maintain your QAC without retaking the exam. Hour requirements vary between categories.	
Test Fee	\$50
Bi-Annual Fee	\$60/yr

Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business License	
Apply with DPR for Business License. Must present QAC and Proof of Financial Responsibility.	
Bi-Annual Fee	\$80/yr

Registration with County Agricultural Commissioners (CAC) Office	
Must register with each county where you perform pest control work.	
Annual Fee in San Mateo County	\$25

For Licensing forms and questions, please contact:

**Department of Pesticide Regulation
Pest Management and Licensing Branch
Licensing and Certification Program**
P.O. Box 4015 * 1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812-4015
Phone: (916) 445-4038
Fax: (916) 445-4033
www.cdpr.ca.gov

Or

Contact the Agricultural Commissioner's Office nearest you.

For San Mateo County, contact:

**San Mateo County
Agricultural Commissioner's Office**
P.O. Box 999 * 728 Heller Street
Redwood City, CA 94064-0999
Phone: (650) 363-4700
Fax: (650) 367-0130
www.smcgov.org/agwm

Field Offices:

Half Moon Bay: (650) 726-2514
San Bruno: (650) 877-5761



Study material for Maintenance Gardener Qualified Applicator Category Q is available in English and Spanish at:
www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/categoryq