

Top 10 Common Chemical Infractions to Avoid

The golf course superintendent manages and maintains the most valuable asset in the game of golf — the golf course

Remember: The superintendent's role as an environmental steward requires proper knowledge of and training in the chemicals used on the golf course. He or she is crucial to the success of the facility and — more importantly — the health of the environment.

Listed below are 10 common infractions of pesticide laws found by inspectors in one EPA region.

Invalid Business Or Applicator License

Your superintendent is responsible for keeping it renewed and accessible.

Label Violation

The labels for many pesticides have been changed over the past four to five years as a result of the EPA's re-registration program. Consequently, many uses for products, such as diazinon and malathion, have been eliminated. Yet, some applicators may continue to buy and use products on plants (sites) that are no longer on the label.

Improper Mixing

Problems can come from prohibited tank mixes that cause interactions. There can be plant reactions from combinations of certain classes of pesticides that are applied days — or even weeks — apart.

Failure to Survey the Site Before Applying a Pesticide

For instance, overlooking or forgetting area wetlands.

Poor Preparation for Spills Or Other Emergencies

How many application rigs carry some soap, water, disposable towels and an eyewash kit? Worker protection standards now are very specific about providing decontamination materials. Applicators should be familiar with how to handle spills of pesticides.

Drift Complaints

Knowledge of product characteristics and attention to environmental conditions such as wind speeds or inversions will reduce the potential for problems. Be aware of sensitive nearby crops or plants.

Incomplete or Missing Records

Private and commercial applicators must keep appropriate

record of pesticide applications.

Spray Tank Not Properly Cleaned; Applicator Not Familiar with Tank's History

This can also lead to plant damage or illegal residues. When purchasing used spray equipment, determine the types of products that have been applied by the previous owner.

Sales Representative Makes Erroneous Product Safety Claims

Lack of familiarity with the label may be a major reason for unrealistic claims. Look critically for cautions or warnings, such as sensitivity or effects of specific weather conditions on applications or product efficacy.

Failure to Use Personal Protective Equipment

Specifications may even require specific types of gloves or spray units. Use quality equipment and keep it clean and functional. Replace it as needed.

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Warning: The penalty for using a pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its labeling can include fines up to \$1,000 per offense for private applicators — owners/operators of golf courses. Check your local and state laws and regulations.



Numbers 9 and 10 at the Chaska Town Course.