



# PURDUE PESTICIDE PROGRAMS

Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service

## PESTICIDES AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

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### Introduction

The fleet vehicles of commercial pesticide applicators serving residential and industrial clientele fulfill multiple functions, notably for transportation of equipment and materials to the work site, mobile office facilities, and company advertisement. The proper maintenance of the vehicles and articles stored on board promotes applicator safety, reduces risk of accidental environmental contamination by transported pesticides, and serves as an indicator of the degree of professional responsibility assumed by the company.

The safety of the applicator is dependent on two aspects of the vehicle. The first is operating condition. Regular checks of tire wear, brakes, and lights can detect problems before a potentially unsafe situation is reached. Second, examination of pesticide containers and application equipment may mean the difference between a smooth, routine day's work or an unnecessary human exposure to chemicals. Pay special attention to containers to make certain that they are sealed and secure. Remember to inspect hoses, fittings, couplings, etc., to determine that your application equipment is in good working order. Finally, a good first aid kit and fresh water are essential to a well-stocked rig.

Environmental contamination is another possibility where vehicles are not inspected frequently for proper maintenance. Any source of pesticide leaks from the vehicle, whether dilute material or concentrate, may result in soil or water contamination. Always carry spill control equipment on board. Inevitably, accidents do happen and your response will, in large part, determine the extent of the problem. If a spill occurs, first remove any persons exposed to the material from the source of contamination, treat them, and then contain and absorb the pesticide.

Fleet vehicles can be an important tool in terms of acquiring and keeping customers. Rigs that are stained with pesticides, have granules and dirt in the bed, carry old and poorly serviced application equipment, or simply present an unkempt appearance do nothing to secure customer confidence in your business. Fleet vehicles can say quite a lot about the capabilities of their owner. Along those same lines, your rigs represent a sizeable investment. The simple act of a regular inspection can increase their useful life and their value to you.

Demonstrate your commitment to personal safety and environmental quality: Advertise your company proudly. Recognize the value of regular vehicle inspections.

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# Vehicle Maintenance Checklist

## Cab Interior

- Clean cab—no food wrappers or trash
- Coveralls for routine inspections
- Extra change of clothes
- Pest identification information available
- Emergency numbers on board in case of accident
- Record of on-board pesticides
- Label and MSDS present for review
- First aid kit on board
- Fire extinguisher on board
- [Pesticides not stored in cab (summer)]
- [Pesticide application equipment not present]

## On-board Pesticide Containers

- Containers properly sealed and secured
- Legible labels on all containers
- Granules in proper containers
- Bait formulations in secured containers
- No oversupply of pesticides
- Empty containers properly rinsed and positioned for removal at end of day:  
Never reuse pesticide containers.

## Spill Control

- Absorbent materials and rags on board
- Shovel, broom, plastic bags on board

## Equipment Check

- [Sprayers not pressurized]
- Supplies in moisture-proof containers
- Lids fit securely on pesticide tanks
- Spray hoses in good condition
- Pressure gauges operable
- All sprayers cleaned and secured
- Water containers labeled
- Respiratory gear on board
- Hard hat on board

### *Chemical-resistant clothing on board*

- Goggles     Gloves     Boots
- Apron     Coveralls

## Tires

- Pressure
- Tread wear
- Cuts and cracks
- Spare tire

## Lights

### *Front*

- High beam headlights
- Low beam headlights
- Turn signals
- Running lights
- Emergency flashers

### *Rear*

- Taillights
- Brake lights
- Turn signals
- Running lights
- Emergency flashers
- Backup lights
- License plate lights

## Wipers

- Wiper blades in good condition
- Washer fluid dispenser filled
- Washer fluid pump in working order

## Under the Hood

- Belts
- Hoses
- Oil
- Radiator fluid
- Automatic transmission fluid

## Other

- Horn in good working order
- Seat belts in good working order
- Brakes in good working order
- Windshield free of obstructions
- No spills on truck exterior
- No spills in truck bed
- Truck bed free of debris

Inspected by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

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