

Oregon Pesticide Use Reporting System

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to report?

Most likely, yes. If you use pesticides in the course of business or any other for-profit enterprise, for a government entity, or in a location that is intended for public access, then you must report the use of all pesticide products. Herbicides, rat poison, slug baits, moss killer, and insect sprays are all examples of pesticide products. Therefore, the use of these products and other pest control chemicals must be reported.

Only two groups of people are not required to report their use of pesticides. One group consists of persons who use a pesticide within or around their residence. However, if you live on a farm where pesticides are used in association with agricultural production, these uses must be reported. But, your use of pesticides in and around your residence is not to be reported.

The other group of people who are not required to report their pesticide use are those who only use an antimicrobial type of pesticide. These pesticides include most products considered to be disinfectants.

Why do I have to report?

The 1999 Oregon Legislature passed legislation (Chapter 1059, Oregon Laws 1999) that requires all pesticide users to report their pesticide use to the Oregon Department of Agriculture. A number of interests, including agricultural and environmental groups, supported this legislation. A pesticide user is defined in statute as any person who users or applies a pesticide in the course of business or any other for-profit enterprise, or for a government entity, or in a location intended for public use or access. If you fit this definition, you are required to report your use of pesticides to the Department. Only antimicrobial pesticide applications and applications by households are exempt from reporting.

How often must the reports be filed?

All reports for the current year must be submitted by January 31 of the following year. You can report as frequently as you want, but no less frequently than once per year. For example, all reports of applications made during 2007 must be filed by January 31, 2008.

What can I do to prepare for reporting?

Keeping track of the correct information that is required for reporting is the most important thing you can do to prepare for entering your pesticide use reports. Worksheets are available for you to use for recording your pesticide use until you can enter the reports on the computer.

Do I have to keep a separate record of the information I report?

No. The information you are required to report can be part of the pesticide use records you may already be keeping, or may keep in the future. PURS does not replace other state or federal record keeping requirements.

If I currently keep records, what is the difference between what I keep in my records and what is required for PURS?

The existing record keeping requirements, specified in Oregon State Law (ORS 634.146), are not superseded by PURS. These requirements pertain to Commercial Pesticide Operators, Public Pesticide Applicators, and certain Commercial Pesticide Applicators. Additionally, Private Pesticide Applicators must maintain records of restricted use pesticide applications, due to federal requirements. OR-OSHA, in administering worker protection standards, requires that specific pesticide use information be recorded. And, some buyers of agricultural crops require specific records of pesticide use on the crop.

The table below illustrates the differences and similarities between some current record keeping requirements and PURS. The Department realizes that these requirements for record keeping and PURS are different yet contain many similar elements.

PURS Requirements	Oregon Pesticide Record Keeping Requirements	Federal Restricted Use Pesticide Record Keeping Requirements
Reporter information (name, address, phone number, etc.)	Identity of company keeping records implied	Identity of company/person keeping records implied
Pesticide product name and Product ID Number (e.g. EPA Registration Number; SLN Number; Section 18 Number)	Trade name and strength of product (EPA registration number or the manufacturer, product name, and formulation type)	Pesticide product name and EPA registration number
Quantity of undiluted product applied	Amount or concentration of product applied	Quantity of undiluted product applied
Date of application	Date and time of application	Date of application
Location of application (water basin or ZIP code)	Location of application (address or geographic description)	Location of application (address or geographic description)
	Size of area treated	Size of area treated
Site category	Specific site, crop, commodity, or stored product	Specific site, crop, commodity, or stored product
Purpose of application		
	Name of applicator (or trainee) who made application	Certified applicators name and certification number
	Amount of other material applied (carrier and/or other)	
	Equipment used (if aircraft FAA number)	
	Person or firm for whom pesticide was applied	
	Supplier of product	
	Maintain records for at least three years	Maintain records for at least 2 years

If I currently keep records, can I just send those records to the Department?

No. The Department was directed by the Legislature to develop a web site for pesticide users to submit their pesticide use information by electronic means only. PURS cannot accept paper reports.

How do I report and when can I start reporting my pesticide use to the Department?

The reporting system has been available for use since January 2007. Applications made prior to 2007 do not need to be reported.

To report, go to the PURS web site and start with the Registration system if you have not registered in the system since January 2007. Once you have registered, you will be given a unique ID number and password, which you can then use to enter the Reports system.

How can I aggregate information for a pesticide use report?

You may choose to aggregate (or add together) information about certain pesticide uses to form one pesticide use report. If you use a pesticide product or products at more than one field, house, business, road, or other site within the same water basin or ZIP code (depending on site category) and the same calendar month, then you may be able to aggregate that information into a single report. To aggregate information, the site category, specific site (as designated by PURS) and location (water basin or ZIP code) must all be the same. When pesticide use information is aggregated, the date of use is to be the last day of the calendar month. The amount of undiluted product or products used is the total amount used within that water basin or ZIP code in that single calendar month. You CANNOT aggregate more than a single month's worth of applications into one report.

How do I report the use of an aerosol spray and/or ready-to-use pesticide?

Since making accurate measurements of the amount of product used for these types of products is difficult, you should report them in this manner: (1) Date of use for "ready-to-use" products is the day when the product container is emptied or disposed of (2) Amount of undiluted product used is the total amount stated on the product's label (3) Site category and specific site (if appropriate) is where the product container was emptied or disposed of (4) Location is the water basin or ZIP code (whichever is appropriate for the site category) where the pesticide container was emptied or disposed of.

What if I want to set up a database now so that I can report using the file transfer method (electronic data submission)? What are the things I need to know to make sure what I set up now will work for me when I have to start reporting?

In order to submit reports using electronic data submission (EDS), your file must be in XML format. There are a number of documents and online resources available on the PURS Web site under File Reports that should help you with the EDS process. For various reasons, filing reports by EDS may not be appropriate for all pesticide users. PURS Specialists at the Pesticides Division can be reached by calling the PURS Information Line (503-986-6472) for additional information.

Should I print off the detail sheet after filing every report?

Although it is not required, printing off and keeping the sheet may be helpful in tracking what pesticide use reports you have already completed. Within the PURS system, you may go to Previous Reports from the Main Menu screen to find the information for all reports you have filed.

Can I use the "Back" button to change information in a PURS screen?

No. Using the "Back" button in the browser window may cause loss of data. If you know there was an error on a previous screen, you may click Previous Step or if Oregon Department Of Agriculture – Pesticides Division

you want to start over completely, you may click Main Menu. Note, if you click Main Menu you will lose the information you have already entered for that report.

What if someone does not report the required information?

The law specifically states that not reporting is a violation of law. Violations of this type are subject to enforcement action, which, depending upon the circumstance could result in the Department issuing a notice of violation, a civil penalty, or a loss of pesticide related licensing.

What measures will be in place to ensure the privacy of those who report?

The law speaks to keeping confidential the identity of pesticide users and the location of pesticide use. The reporting system is designed to keep such information confidential including keeping the registration information in a separate database from the reports. Also, only specified Department staff working with PURS will have access to the data. While provisions exist for a limited release to qualified researches, specific confidentiality requirements will be imposed.

What about pesticide use by households?

People who use a pesticide product in and around their residence are not required to report their use. A detailed, statistically based survey is being used for gathering detailed information on household use of pesticides. This survey started gathering information for 2006, and will be used in future years.

Can someone file reports for me?

Yes. The system allows for a proxy reporter to file reports on your behalf. You will need to make your own arrangements to use a proxy reporter.

What do I do if I don't have a computer?

There are a number of different options. Many public libraries have computers available with Internet access. Other groups are also planning on making their computers available from use. You can also have someone else (a proxy reporter) file reports for you.

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