



## **Pesticide Advisory: July 28, 2021**

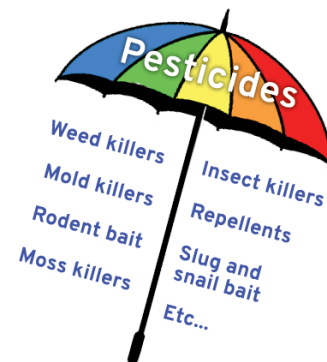
### **REMINDER OF LABEL AND LICENSING REQUIREMENTS: Usage of Wood Treatment for Wood-Destroying Pests and Moss Control Products on Roofs**

Moss is a widespread problem on roofs and other structures in the moist areas of the Pacific Northwest. It is not uncommon for people to use products that prevent growth or kill existing moss. In addition, treating wood roofs to prevent wood-destroying pests is also common. Many people do not know that these types of products are classified as pesticides on the state and federal levels and applying them commercially requires a pesticide applicator's license.

During the summer of 2021, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) investigated two incidents relating to the usage of the pesticide **CuSol-5 Wood Preservative** on roofs. Reports came to ODA due to concerns that the pesticide may be entering streams and rivers. This product is toxic to fish and aquatic invertebrates, and it can cause irreversible eye damage and skin burns. ODA also previously investigated a concern about using powdered zinc sulfate on roofs which reportedly caused breathing difficulties for people nearby.

You must have a pesticide license when hired to apply any pesticide on the property of others. This includes products such as the wood preservative CuSol-5, to prevent wood-destroying pests on cedar roofs, or using zinc sulfate to kill or prevent moss on roofs. Additionally, the pesticide label must be followed. Pesticide product labels provide critical information about how to safely and legally handle and use pesticide products. Pesticide labels are lawfully enforceable, and all of them carry the statement: "It is a violation of Federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling." **In other words, the label is the law.**

**What is a pesticide?** A pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest. A pesticide can also be any substance or mixture of substances intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant. For example, use of zinc sulfate to kill or prevent moss on roofs, or CuSol-5 to prevent wood-destroying pests on wood roofs. Different pesticides are made to control specific pests. Insecticides control insects, herbicides control weeds, rodenticides control rodents, and antimicrobials control germs. There are also some products that combine pesticides with fertilizers, such as weed-and-feed products. Products that exclusively function as cleaners are not classified as pesticides.



**How can I tell if a product is a pesticide?** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a comprehensive registration process which included reviewing data and approving pesticide labeling. Products are assigned an EPA Registration Number (EPA Reg. No.). These pesticide product labels describe how to effectively use the product; provide safety information; and indicate the EPA Reg. No. Some pesticide products do not have an EPA Reg. No. if they qualify as “minimum risk pesticides” and are exempt from EPA registration. However, these products are still required to be registered with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). You can identify all Oregon-registered pesticide products by searching the following ODA database: <https://oda.direct/SearchRegisteredPesticides>.

**Do I need a license to apply pesticides onto the properties of others?** To apply a pesticide on someone else's property for hire, you **must** be licensed as a commercial pesticide applicator with the appropriate license category. Other options include a license as a Pesticide Apprentice or Immediately Supervised Trainee who is supervised by a licensed commercial pesticide applicator with the appropriate license category. For example, "Moss Control" is the appropriate ODA category to control moss and algae on structures, sidewalks, and driveways. “Structural” is the appropriate ODA category to use pesticides (other than fumigants) in or around structures for the control of wood-destroying pests. Additional categories may be needed depending upon your activity. You must also be employed by a company with a commercial pesticide operator license.

Failure to comply with Oregon’s licensing requirements and label restrictions may result in one or more of the following actions: civil penalty, license revocation, license suspension, or refusal to issue or renew the license or certification of an applicant, licensee, or certificate holder in accordance with ORS 634.322(4).

Information and resources on pesticide licensing and searching for registered pesticide products can be found at: <https://oda.direct/AboutPesticides>.

For additional information or questions, call ODA at (503) 986-4635 or email [pestx@oda.state.or.us](mailto:pestx@oda.state.or.us).

