



Best Practice Guidance Note: Water Protection.

Applying pesticides is essential to maintain acceptable quality in many areas of Amenity such as - roadways, pavements, sports fields, golf courses and other public areas. Products used for these purposes must be 'approved' to ensure there are no unacceptable risks to the environment, humans and animals from their proper use. Operators applying these products must also be properly trained in their safe application and how to protect the environment. Protection of water is a very important part of this.

"Best Practice" requires us to consider The Water Framework Directive at all times when we are applying pesticides TO PREVENT ANY FORM OF RUN-OFF. This Directive contains two important areas for Amenity users; The Drinking Water Directive and the Groundwater Directive.

Drinking Water Directive:

Protects human health by ensuring drinking water is wholesome and clean.

Measures the quality of tap water using World Health Organisation standards.

Groundwater Directive:

Sets underground water quality standards.

Prevents or limits pollutants.

Requires pollution trend studies to be carried out to ensure pollution trends are continually improving.

It is "Best Practice" to ensure we are protecting water quality by doing the following:

- Know the location of drains, watercourses and vulnerable groundwater.
- Site pesticide handling areas carefully away from water sources and drains.
- Consider whether the product needs to be applied or could cultural measures be substituted or an alternative control technique be used – Integrated Pest Management.
- Always try to use targeted treatments.
- Do not apply pesticides in inclement weather or when adverse weather is forecast – avoid run-off at all times.
- Ensure all equipment is adequately maintained, in good working order and calibrated.
- Use the criteria set out in LERAP to determine the distance you need to stay away from watercourses while spraying.
- Prevent drift while spraying by using low drift nozzles or shrouded booms whenever possible.

- Safely dispose of all dilute pesticides in accordance with the product label.
- Thoroughly clean all spraying equipment and dispose of washings to an appropriate site in accordance with the product label. Consider the construction of a permanent bund for washing down machinery or use a portable bund.
- Have clean, empty containers removed by a reputable disposal company.
- Have an emergency plan and kit available for any spillages.
- Maintain water features, where possible, as functional water supplies, that can help improve the biodiversity of the area.
- Always bear in mind that applications of pesticides in or near water require Environment Agency approval.

