

Pesticide Application & Notice Policy

Approved at the May 27th, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting

BACKGROUND

The intent of this policy is to establish the Board's standards and expectations regarding pesticide application throughout the common areas by third party vendors and the process for noticing to Association homeowners and residents. For reference and for the purpose of this policy, herbicides (substances used to control unwanted plants) fall under the definition of a pesticide, and hereinafter will be treated as such.

PESTICIDE APPLICATION PROCESS

The Association contracts with vendors who may, from time to time, apply pesticides and herbicides throughout the common area. These applications primarily target unwanted weed growth throughout the landscaping and walkways, as well as pest activity in and around the Association buildings and facilities.

All vendors hired by the Association for this service will be licensed pesticide applicators through the state. These vendors will exercise best practices and follow all Material Data Safety Sheet (MSDS) application requirements. Vendors will be asked to ensure that pedestrian access is prohibited for areas that were recently sprayed and have yet to dry (if that is required by the MSDS).

Each vendor is ultimately responsible to ensure that they are complying with all California Code of Regulations and MSDS requirements. That being said, the Association will reasonably investigate as necessary and speak directly with the vendor about any concerns.

PESTICIDE APPLICATION WEB PAGE

The Association will maintain a page on its website that will be the hub for all current pesticide-related information. The direct link to this web page is www.walnutcountry.com/pesticides.

This web page will include, at a minimum, the following information:

- A list of all pesticides used throughout the common areas
- Material Data Safety Sheets (MSDS) for all pesticides utilized
- Satellite maps detailing approximate common area locations subject to the application of pesticides, which pesticides are typically applied, and their frequency/schedule
- Contact information for each pesticide applicator, and, if possible, contact information for a representative of each pesticide manufacturer

This web page will be considered a living document and may change as deemed necessary, but the Association will endeavor to make a reasonable attempt at making as much information available on regarding pesticide use and application throughout the common areas on this web page.

NOTICE TO HOMEOWNERS AND RESIDENTS

The Association will make homeowners and residents aware of this web page and information through the following channels:

- A direct link on the Association's website homepage located at www.walnutcountry.com
- A link in the Association's monthly *Signal* newsletter

- A link at the bottom of every Association eSignal (the Association's email newsletter system)
- A link included in the monthly billing statements sent to every homeowner, so long as statements are utilized
- Notice with links posted in the three interior common area bulletin boards, located near the east pool, the west pool, and the main playground

Please note that these communication channels are subject to change at the Board's discretion. The Association will make every reasonable effort to continue to inform all residents of this web page.

LOOKING FORWARD

Pesticides have been used for weed abatement and unwanted plant control throughout the Association for decades. The intent of this policy is to clarify how information regarding this pesticide use may be disseminated amongst the membership and residents. It is important to note that the creation of this policy is in no way a reaction to any change or increase in the overall use of pesticides. Pesticide application at CHOA is not new. **The Association has always used pesticides as a way of keeping unwanted plant material out of the walkways and grass.** This policy was created to help better inform residents of what is being sprayed or applied throughout the common areas, and its schedule and frequency.

That being said, the Board is and will continue to actively work with its contracted vendors to reduce the use of pesticides whenever possible. As an example, herbicides such as Ranger Pro are frequently used to control weed growth in areas like walkways, concrete, dirt, and mulch. This is an effective post-emergent weed abatement formula. Alternatives to this application are either less effective or require increased applications (or labor). The Board is working with vendors to strike a balance between more natural weed abatement methods and affordable maintenance.