

Restricted Use Pesticide Fact Sheet

- ❖ **RUPs decrease the probability of worker exposure and off-site drift that could impact the public or environment.**
- ❖ **Restricted use pesticides are not available to the general public and must be used by certified trained professionals**
- ❖ **U.S. EPA classifies products as restricted use for a variety of different reasons**

What is a restricted use pesticide?

Restricted use pesticides are not available to the general public in the United States. The "Restricted Use" classification restricts a product, or its uses, to use by a certificated pesticide applicator or under the direct supervision of a certified applicator. This means that a license is required to purchase and apply the product.

Certification programs are administered by the federal government, individual states, and by company policies. This is managed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). This results in an even higher level of protection to the public, workers, and the environment.

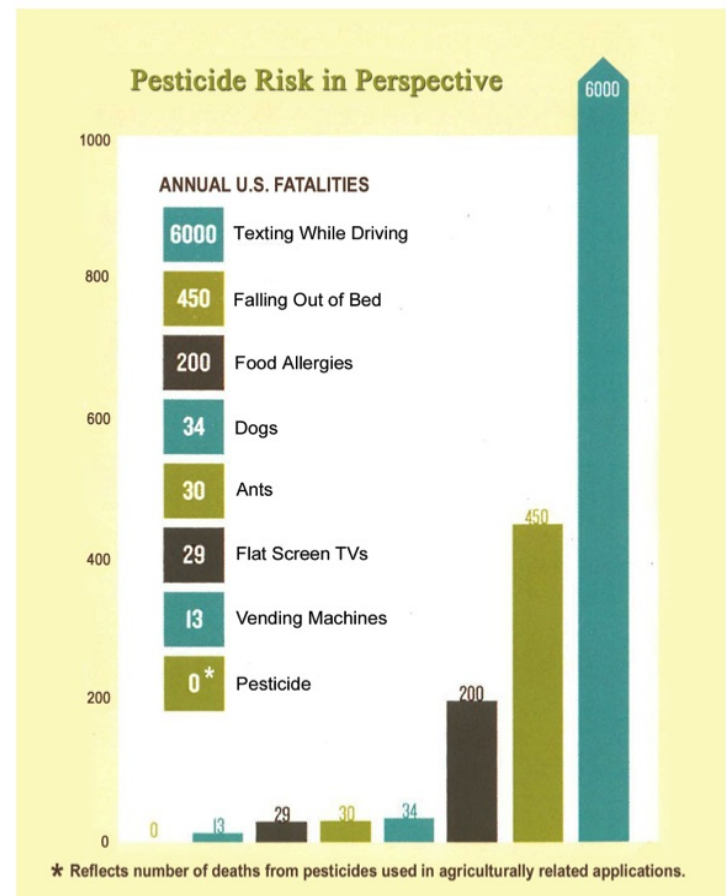
Why are products restricted?

Products are classified as restricted use for a variety of reasons, often including a product's toxicity. Examples include:

- Products that may cause eye damage or toxicity if absorbed through the skin
- Granular products that could be eaten by non-target wildlife
- Products that have the potential to contaminate groundwater

Who can use restricted use pesticides?

Restricted use pesticides are not available to the general public and can only be bought and used by a certified applicator or under the direct supervision of a certified applicator.



Certification and licensing requirements

An applicator applying restricted use pesticides must be certified as either a commercial pesticide applicator or private applicator. These general categories are further divided into various subcategories based on general patterns of use and sites where specific knowledge in that area is required. For example, a commercial applicator category may have a plant pest control subcategory, which includes supervision or use of a restricted use product in the production of agricultural food and feed crops such as but not limited to grain, vegetables, fruits, and tree nuts.

To apply for certification, the applicant must be at least 18 years old and pass an examination that demonstrates knowledge and understanding of restricted use products.

Permits and Records

In addition to the requirements for applicators to be licensed, the State of Hawaii requires every person who sells or distributes restricted use pesticides to obtain an annual permit from the Department of Agriculture. Licensed dealers are also required to keep a record of each sale, distribution, delivery, theft, spill, or any other activity affecting the amount of restricted material in their possession.

Restricted Use Pesticide - Myths

Myth: The application of restricted use products (RUP) implies that the general public and bystanders are at greater risk than non restricted use products.

Response: RUPs actually decrease the probability of off-site movement and bystander exposure because they require the applicator to be educated and licensed to ensure they understand the potential human health or environmental impacts of the products.

Myth: Seed companies on Hawaii use more restricted use products than mainland corn farmers because they grow crops year round. The increased use of restricted use of these pesticides is damaging the environment.

Response: Farming practices on Hawaii cannot be compared to mainland farming practices in other states because the types of pesticides and levels of infestations can be dramatically different. The Hawaiian topography and climate cannot be compared to that in the Mid-West. California growers use significantly higher amounts of restricted use pesticides than Hawaiian farmers to control pests on high-dollar crops, which are grown throughout the year.

Most pesticide products are designed to be absorbed by the target plant or breakdown rapidly in the environment. Increased use of restricted use products or general use pesticide products does not necessarily mean there will be an excessive build up of those products in the environment. Products that may have deleterious effects from overuse generally include directions for use that restrict the number of applications that can be made in a given time frame. For these reasons, such products must be purchased and used by licensed applicators.