

What is a Trained Serviceperson?

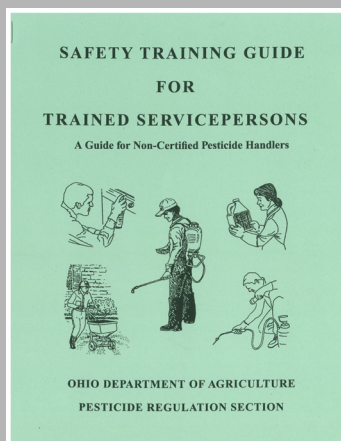
- Ohio law allows non-licensed applicators, called Trained Servicepersons, to make applications if they are under the direct supervision of a licensed applicator.

Trained Serviceperson requirements:

- New employees must be trained before their first occupational exposure to pesticides.
- Employees are trained by reading the Safety Training Guide for Trained Servicepersons or equivalent training.
- Verification of training must be kept in personnel records during employment and for three years after termination.

To supervise a Trained Serviceperson, the licensed applicator must:

- Demonstrate instruction and control over the Trained Serviceperson.
- Be within 25 miles or available within two hours when a pesticide application is being made by the Trained Serviceperson.
- Be employed by the same company or public agency as the Trained Serviceperson.



The Safety Training Guide for Trained Servicepersons is available from the Ohio Department of Agriculture free of charge, or can be downloaded from the website: pested.osu.edu.

You need a Commercial Applicator License if you:

- Apply pesticides to the property of another for hire.
- Apply pesticides for any government agency: federal, state, county, township, city, village or school district.
- Apply pesticides to schools, parks, golf courses, restaurants, and apartment complexes with more than four units.

Question:

Do business or agency employees need commercial applicator licenses if they are not using restricted-use pesticides?

Answer:

Yes - businesses that apply pesticides for hire and government agency personnel must be licensed to use any pesticide, even if they use retail garden center products or minimum risk products, such as cedar oil, garlic oil or corn gluten meal.



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Pesticide Safety Education Program

Ohio Commercial Pesticide Applicator Requirements



Photo: Cindy Folck, Pesticide Safety Education Program

**Who needs to be licensed
and the steps to take**



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Photo: Dan Harris, Dept. of Entomology, The Ohio State University

Commercial License Required for:

- Pest control operators
- Lawn care applicators
- Landscapers
- Utility & highway rights of way
- Agricultural custom applicators
- Schools, colleges & universities
- Townships, cities & villages
- Apartment complexes (4 or more units)
- Restaurants & food service
- Daycare centers
- Hospitals & medical centers
- Golf courses

Both general and restricted-use pesticides require a license when used commercially or by a public agency, even if low-toxicity products are used.

How to Get Started

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) is the agency in charge of pesticide licensing and testing. Follow the steps below to become a licensed commercial applicator:

1. Complete and mail the ODA application form with the \$35 application fee. The form is available at **agri.ohio.gov** or by calling ODA at 614-728-6987.
2. ODA will send you a set of study materials once the application fee is received.
3. Study the materials.
4. Register with ODA for an exam date and location by registering online at **agri.ohio.gov** or call ODA at 614-728-6987.
5. When exams are passed, ODA will mail the license to you.

Commercial Categories

- You are required to hold “core” and at least one other commercial category on your license depending on the sites on which you apply pesticides.
- Core covers the basics of pesticide application from reading the label, to safety and environmental protection.
- There are 26 different commercial categories for you to choose from when filling out your application.
- Each category is specific to a pesticide application site, such as turf, field crops or structures.
- For a list and complete description of each category, visit **pested.osu.edu**.



Exams

- All licenses are issued by ODA. They are also responsible for administering the exams.
- All of the commercial pesticide exams are multiple choice.
- Each exam has between 25 and 150 questions, depending on the category.
- You must pass both the core exam and at least one category exam in order to become licensed.
- If you do not pass an exam, you may retake it without additional cost for one year.
- Exams can be taken as many times as needed in order to pass.
- You must wait at least five business days before retaking an exam.

Training Opportunities

- Pesticide Safety Education Program, OSU Extension, offers optional new applicator training classes.
- These classes provide additional training to help prepare for some exams; the core class also fulfills the training requirement for Trained Servicepersons. More information is available at **pested.osu.edu**.
- Pesticide Safety Education Program also provides a series of online lessons specific to the core material. These lessons can be purchased to help prepare for the core exam. To purchase this series of lessons, visit **pested.osu.edu**.



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