

DID YOU KNOW?



Office of Indiana State Chemist
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www.isco.purdue.edu



Applying fertilizer or weed killer to lawns for money requires a license!

Indiana law requires any person who applies pesticides or fertilizers (or even advertises that they apply pesticides or fertilizers) to the property of another for money to obtain a business license from the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC).

Q: I don't apply pesticides to my customers lawns, just weed killer. Do I still need a license?

A: Yes, you still need a license. Pesticide is a broad term that includes any product intended to kill or control a pest. Insecticides, fungicides and weed killers, also known as herbicides are all pesticides and therefore require a license if you apply them for money.

Q: Do I need a license if I fertilize and kill weeds in my customer's lawns for free and only charge them for mowing?

A: Yes. Trying to hide or disguise charges for fertilizer or pesticide application services DOES NOT relieve you from your legal obligation to be licensed to provide those services. You still need to obtain a license from the OISC.

Q: I only use homeowner type fertilizers and weed killers that I purchase at the local hardware store. Do I still need a license?

A: Yes. It doesn't matter where the products are purchased or if they are homeowner, natural, organic or man-made. If you apply any fertilizer or pesticides to a customer's property for money, then a license is required.

Q: Exactly what does the Office of the Indiana State Chemist do?

A: The OISC is responsible for regulating feed, seed, fertilizer and pesticides in Indiana. Part of this regulation includes the licensing and oversight of lawn care and landscape maintenance companies that apply lawn care chemicals.

Q: How do I obtain a business license from the OISC?

A: To obtain a business license a firm must:

1. Employ at least one certified and licensed applicator.
2. Submit a certificate of insurance to OISC.
3. Submit a completed application form to OISC.
4. Submit the licensing fee to OISC.

Q: What is a certified applicator?

A: A certified applicator is an individual who has demonstrated his or her competency to apply fertilizers and pesticides. To become a certified applicator you must:

1. Pass the core exam, covering general pesticide knowledge.
2. Pass the category 3b exam (turf management), covering specific turf management issues such as pests, fertilizer and pesticide application techniques and equipment calibration.
3. Meet the experience requirement by completing any **one** of the following four options:
 - a. **Complete an OISC approved multi-day hands-on training course; or**
 - b. **Work as an active credentialed lawn care applicator for a category 3b licensed business for at least 90 days; or**
 - c. **Work as a licensed certified applicator in any licensing category for at least one year; or**
 - d. **Complete a formal post high school, two year minimum, turf program and submit an official transcript to the OISC.**

Q: I want to become a certified applicator in category 3b. Do I need to take the exams or get the experience in any special order?

A: No. There is no requirement that you complete the exams or the experience requirement in any special order.

Candidates for certification may self-study and then take the exams or they may enroll in one day training classes where the exams are given at the end of the training.

For more information on purchasing self study materials contact the Education Store at (888) 398-4636. Ask for PPP-C the Core Manual and PPP-3b the Turf Management Manual.

To schedule an exam (no training and no fee) at Purdue University call (765) 494-1594.

To schedule an exam (no training but, has a fee) at a remote testing site call (800) 345-6559.

To schedule a class room training session with an exam at the end or to enroll in the multi-day hands-on training course contact Purdue Pesticide Programs at (765) 494-4566.

For more information about the entire category 3b certification and licensing process go to www.isco.purdue.edu and click on *Pesticide*, then click on *I Want to do Lawn Care*.