

# Newmarket is Proud to be Pesticide Free

## Pesticide Use Bylaw Frequently Asked Questions

### What does the pesticide bylaw say?

Starting September 1, 2008, the use of chemical pesticides on lawns and gardens will be prohibited from use everywhere in the Town except golf courses and lawn bowling greens.

### Why did Council pass this bylaw?

Town Council considered this bylaw an important step towards making our community more environmentally sustainable. The only reason to use pesticides on our lawns and gardens is for cosmetic purposes and that is no longer considered a good enough reason to risk the health of our families or the sustainability of our natural environment.

### Are there any exemptions?

Yes, there are some exemptions. The bylaw does not prevent the use of pesticides in swimming pools, as a personal insect repellent, if they are used to control termites, rodents, as a wood preservative, if injected into trees or if your property becomes infested with weeds or insects.

### Are there any health risks associated with using pesticides?

Yes. In fact, numerous studies have shown that prolonged exposure to the chemicals in some pesticide products can have significant effects on brain and motor function, cause severe illnesses in children and pets, and can even cause cancer.

### What products are considered pesticides?

Pesticides are any product that uses certain chemicals to kill insects, weeds and rodents. Common pesticides include insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and rodenticides. Some of the chemicals found in pesticide products include:

- Malathion
- Dursban
- Diazanone
- Hydroquinone
- Isophorone
- Rhodamine B
- Carbonates
- 2-D / 4-D / 2-T / 4-T / 5-T
- Dimethyl foramide
- Dioctyl phthalate
- Hexachlorobenzene
- Pentachlorobenzene

Any product that contains one or some concentration of these chemicals is prohibited by the ban.

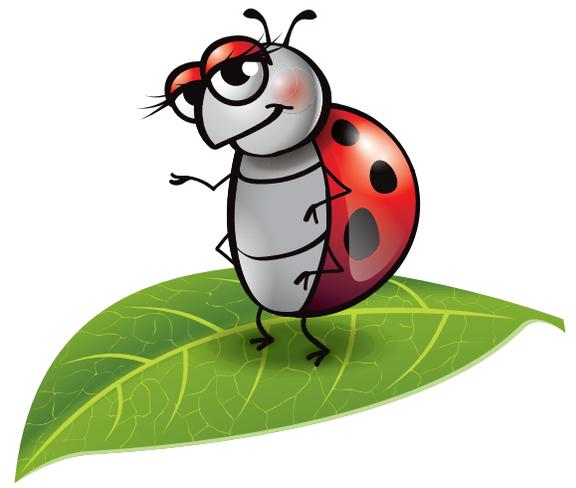
### What products should I be using?

Numerous safe and organic pest control products exist and are available in local home and garden centres. These include:

- Insecticidal soaps
- A mineral oil (dormant or horticultural oil)
- Silicon dioxide (diatomaceous earth)
- Biological pesticides, including Bt (bacillus thuringiensis) and nematodes (microscopic worms)
- Borax (boric acid or boracic acid)
- Ferric phosphate
- Acetic acid
- Pyrethrum or pyrethrins
- Fatty acids
- Sulphur
- Corn gluten meal

### If pesticides are legal to buy in stores, why aren't they legal to use?

The sale of pesticides is regulated by the Province of Ontario. However, municipalities in Canada are able to set bylaws that respond to community concerns and protect the general welfare of the public. Research indicates that there are significant health risks to people, animals and the environment associated with pesticide use and exposure.



### How will the town enforce the pesticide bylaw?

Town bylaw officers will be patrolling during the spring and summer seasons to ensure residents are abiding by the bylaw.

Residents who choose not to follow a Town bylaw are considered to be breaking the law and are subject to a fine or penalty as provided in the Provincial Offences Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P33.

### Will it cost more to use organic lawn and garden products?

Depending on which methods you choose to use, you may pay a little more for pesticide free products. However, when compared to the overall benefit of improving the environment these costs are minimal. Additionally, many of the home remedies that can be used to control pests are very effective and inexpensive.

### Has any other towns or cities instituted a ban like this?

Yes. In fact, Newmarket joins over 120 other municipalities across Ontario in banning pesticide use. However, Newmarket does have the distinction of being the first to pass a pesticide bylaw in York Region, followed by Georgina and Markham.

Visit [www.newmarket.ca](http://www.newmarket.ca) to learn more about the pesticide bylaw and how to combat insects with organic items and products found in your home.



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