



Amenity Forum Guidance Document

Best Practice Note for Hard Surface Herbicide Application

The EU Water Framework Directive and the Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012, require all pesticide users to protect water quality by minimising the risk of water contamination from pesticides. On hard surfaces herbicides have to be applied in a targeted fashion and not blanket sprayed, to avoid run-off of product into urban drainage systems.

Regulatory Update 42/2011, issued by the Health and Safety Executive on 17th November 2011, made it a legal requirement for all herbicide application on hard, non-porous surfaces, to be targeted according to their specific mode of action.

All herbicides approved for use on hard, non-porous surfaces contain 'directions for use' wording on the label regarding targeted application, stating where the product can be applied. Always check the product label for the specific wording regarding targeted application on hard surfaces.

What is a hard surface?

The Chemicals Regulation Division (CRD) official definition of a hard surface is '*Any man made impermeable surface, such as concrete or asphalt and including railway ballast, that is not intended to bear vegetation.*'

Although railway ballast is classified as a hard surface, Regulatory Update 42/2011 is not applicable to products that are specifically authorised only for use on railway ballast.

Hard Surface Application

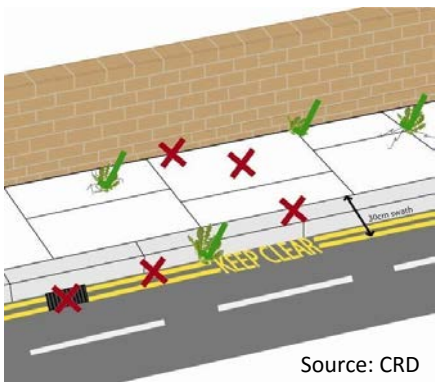
There are three mode of action categories specified in Regulatory Update 42/2011:

1. Products which act only by contact or systemic action via foliar application
2. Products which act only in a residual fashion (There are currently no products authorised for use on hard surfaces which act only in a residual fashion)
3. Products which contain more than one active substance, at least one of which acts by foliar and at least one acts in a residual fashion.

The regulatory update demands that the following wording should be included on the product label for the two cases above where products are authorised:

Products which act only by contact or systemic action via foliar application

Ensure spraying takes place only when weeds are actively growing (normally March to October) and is **confined only to visible weeds**, including those in the 30cm swath covering the kerb edge and road gully – **do not overspray drains**.



Products which contain more than one active substance, at least one of which acts by foliar and at least one acts in a residual fashion

Ensure spraying takes place only when weeds are actively growing (normally March to October) and **is confined only to visible weeds, areas of potential weed growth (e.g. gaps between paving stones, kerb edges and road gulleys)** and/or a 30cm swath covering the kerb edge and road gully – **do not overspray drains.**”

