



# Amenity Forum Guidance Document

## Best Practice Note for Water Protection

Applying pesticides is essential to maintain acceptable quality in many areas of Amenity such as - roadways, pavements, sports fields, golf courses and other public areas. Products used for these purposes must be authorised to ensure there are no unacceptable effects on the environment, or harmful effects on human health, from their proper use. Operators applying these products must also be properly trained in their safe application. **Protection of water is a very important part of this.**

“Best Practice” requires all users to **PREVENT ANY FORM OF RUN-OFF** at all times when we are applying pesticides.

It is “Best Practice” to ensure that when we are spraying, that we protect water courses by doing the following:

- Ensure all pesticide applications (sprays and pellets) are made by trained and qualified staff.
- Apply pesticides with care. DO NOT overspray water courses.
- Know the location of drains, watercourses and vulnerable groundwater – see the Environment Agency website to help with the location of such areas.
- <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/37793.aspx>
- Site pesticide handling areas carefully away from water sources and drains.
- Always consider integrated approaches first. You will need to consider whether the product needs to be applied or could cultural measures be substituted or an alternative control technique be used.
- Always try to use targeted treatments.
- Do not apply pesticides when it is raining or windy (greater than 4mph) or when rain is forecast within 24 hours to avoid run-off.
- Ensure all equipment is properly maintained, in good working order and calibrated.
- Establish at least a 6m grass buffer strip or 5m no spray zone adjacent to any water course.
- Prevent drift while spraying by using low drift nozzles or shrouded booms whenever possible.
- Safely dispose of all dilute pesticides in accordance with the product label.
- Thoroughly clean all spraying equipment and dispose of washings to an appropriate site in accordance with the product label. Consider the construction of a permanent bund for washing down machinery or use a portable bund.
- Have clean, empty pesticide containers removed by a reputable disposal company
- Have an emergency plan and kit available for any spillages
- Always bear in mind that applications of pesticides in or near water require Environment Agency approval