

EPA Pesticides Landscaping



Guide for young workers in the landscaping industry including pesticide information.

NOISE

Hearing loss from noise is gradual, painless, and permanent but can be prevented. Wear earplugs or muffs when working with loud equipment.

SLIPS & TRIPS

It is easy to lose your balance when landscaping. Tips you can use to avoid slips and trips include:

- Do not run while on the job.
- Remove anything from the ground that could make you trip before you start the job.
- Wear sturdy boots or shoes with non-slip soles.

ELECTRIC SHOCK

Use these tips to avoid being electrocuted:

- Check electrical cords and cables for defects and proper grounding.
- Turn off and unplug tools and equipment before you clean, check, or do maintenance on the equipment.
- Keep power tools and equipment away from water.
- Never touch a fallen power line.
- Stay a safe distance from power lines when working in trees, on metal ladders, or when carrying metal ladders.

A SAFE & HEALTHY WORKPLACE

You have the right to:

- A safe and healthy workplace.
- Tell your employer about unsafe or unhealthy work conditions.
- Report unsafe or unhealthy work conditions to OSHA and do so confidentially.

You may not be fired or punished for:

- Raising concerns about workplace safety or health;
- Contacting OSHA;
- Participating in an OSHA inspection; or
- Refusing to work if 1) you are in serious and immediate danger, 2) you ask your employer to fix it and he doesn't, 3) there is no time to call OSHA, and 4) there is no other way to do the job safely.

In order to get help you must report to OSHA within 30 days of the firing or other punishment.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

You have a right to work without being treated differently because of your race, skin color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or age (age 40 or older). Your employer cannot fire or punish you for reporting these concerns.

HOW TO FIND HELP

This guide is provided as a public service. For more information or to file a complaint, contact the federal agencies listed below. Their services are free.

CONCERN	AGENCY CONTACT
Safety & health information, inspections, investigations, & complaints	OSHA Occupational Safety & Health Administration 800-321-OSHA TTY: 877-889-5627 www.osha.gov
Pesticides, pest control, heat stress	EPA Environmental Protection Agency 800-858-PEST TTY: 202-272-0165 www.epa.gov/pesticides
Wages, hours of work, types of jobs you can do	ESA Employment Standards Administration, Wage & Hour Division 866-4US-WAGE TTY: 877-889-5627 www.youthrules.dol.gov
Discrimination & harassment	EEOC Equal Employment Opportunity Commission 800-669-4000 TTY: 800-669-6820 www.youth.eeoc.gov
Safety & health information, statistics & research	NIOSH National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health 800-35-NIOSH www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/youth
Lead-based paint, mold, allergy, asthma, or other unsafe or unhealthful conditions in homes	HUD Housing & Urban Development 202-755-1785 www.hud.gov/offices/lead

Can You Dig It?

A Safety & Health Guide for Young Workers in Landscaping, Greenhouses, & Nurseries

For more safety and health information for young workers, please visit us at www.youngworkers.net.