

Pesticide & Herbicides

FAQs



UCSD has moved away from traditional pest control in favor of a more environmentally sensitive approach called **Integrated Pest Management** (IPM). The technicians in red backpacks around campus are practicing IPM methodology to **sustainably control pests**.



What is IPM (Integrated Pest Management)?

IPM is an effective pest control approach that relies on comprehensive information of the life cycles of pests, their interaction with the environment, and habitat manipulation



Are Herbicides safe around pets and children?

If needed, they are always applied by experienced technicians creating a very low risk to the people, animals, and the environment. Sunscreen and hand sanitizer have a higher labeled safety risk than nearly all the strongest herbicides we would even consider using.



Are we notified before application is made?

If a product application is required, all areas are provided a **48-72-hour notification** beforehand. Notifications include what product is being used, time and place, target pest, safety information and contacts and are posted in main communal areas.



Are we spraying Roundup/Glyphosate?

No, Glyphosate is banned from use at UCSD. We utilize an alternative that is derived from a naturally occurring broad-spectrum herbicide produced by several species of *Streptomyces* soil bacteria called Glufosinate. The EPA and California Department of Pesticide Regulations deems Glufosinate as a relatively nontoxic, Class 3 product based on the extensive accredited global research and studies. Even then, UC San Diego does not apply Glufosinate to pet friendly turf on campus. As an added safeguard, dogs should always be on a leash to ensure that pets do not enter, destroy, or eat university landscape or plants.



Are Pesticides Necessary?

No! In fact most issues are resolved by the IPM process without the need for pesticides. However, pesticides are sometimes needed to establish control but include long term goals to prevent the need for future use.

Since the implementation of UCSD's IPM program, **we have reduced our pesticide use by nearly 80%** and manage pest damage with the **least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment**.



If you have any question regarding our Integrated Pest Management Program, please contact UCSD IPM Supervisor Raul Duenas at raduenas@ucsd.edu or UCSD Environment, Health, and Safety Dept. at (858)583-3276.