

Steps to Get Your Pesticide Applicator License

Why do you need a pesticide applicator license? If you or any of your employees apply pesticides (herbicides like Roundup or soap and vinegar; insecticides like BioAdvanced 12 Month Tree and Shrub Protect and Feed for Insects, Neem Oil; rodent bait, or snail and slug bait like Sluggo) you are required by California Food and Agriculture Code to complete three steps:

- 1) Acquire a Maintenance Gardener Qualified Applicator Certificate (QAC-Q) from the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) by passing a test.
- 2) Acquire a Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business License from DPR.
- 3) Register your business with the Agricultural Commissioner for counties you work in.

You could be fined \$5,000 per incident if caught applying pesticides without meeting these criteria.

Step 1: How to get a QAC-Q. Download the application packet from Maintenance Gardener website. (www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/maintgardeners.htm) or use the QR code. QAC application and exam fee = \$90



Submit the application packet to DPR, study for and pass a short exam, and DPR will mail your QAC-Q to you. Recommended study materials = \$35
(<https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/Details.aspx?itemNo=3510KIT>)



A QAC-Q will allow you to apply non-restricted pesticides, like those purchased at the hardware store, to landscapes.

Step 2: How to get a Maintenance Gardener Business License. After you have a QAC-Q, submit an application packet to DPR (<https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/mgardener.htm>). Cost = \$80-160



Step 3: How to register with the counties you work in. Click on the link for the county you work in and follow the steps.



For Placer County: (<https://www.placer.ca.gov/1561/Pesticide-Registration>)
Cost = \$25

For Nevada County: (<https://www.nevadacountyca.gov/1044/Pesticide-Business-Registration>) Cost = \$10



What is the total cost for getting a QAC, Maintenance Gardener Business License, and registering with the county(ies) you work in? (Total fees below do not include recommended study materials)

Placer County only: \$195-275;
Nevada County only: \$180-265

Both counties: \$205-285

Contact your county Ag department for further information or assistance. Visit Placer County Department of Agriculture for application packets and free study materials.

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Auburn, CA 95603
(530) 889-7372

Nevada County Department of Agriculture
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