

NBSIA Member Services Safety Bulletin

October 2018

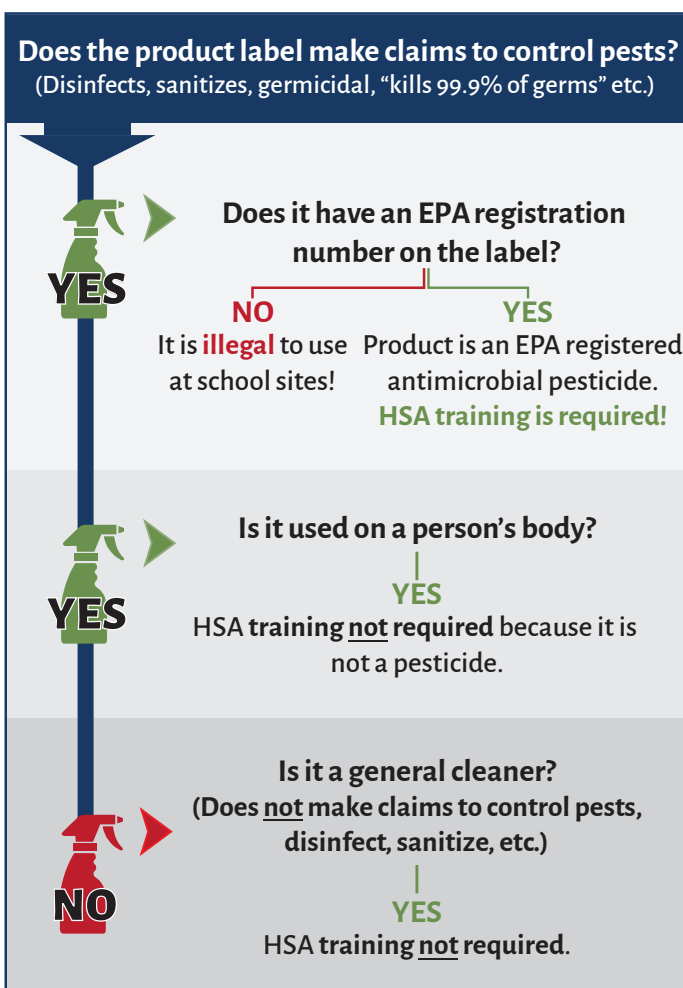
PESTICIDES VS HAND SANITIZERS

Do you know the difference between antimicrobial pesticides and general cleaners? Where do hand sanitizers fit under The Healthy Schools Act (HSA)? The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and Child Care Integrated Pest Management (IPM) can help school staff better understand these differences.

Antimicrobial Pesticides

Antimicrobial pesticides are substances, or mixtures of substances, used to destroy or suppress the growth of harmful microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, or fungi on inanimate objects and surfaces.

To determine if a product is an antimicrobial pesticide, and if HSA training is required, ask these questions...



Hand Sanitizers

Hand sanitizers and anti-bacterial soaps are *not pesticides* and do not require training to use. Why? If the product is being used to kill microbes in or on a **human being**, then it is not a pesticide, and is instead regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

If the antimicrobial product is used to kill microbes on **inanimate objects**, like desks or counter tops, then *it is a pesticide* that is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and requires training.

Training

NBSIA provides free onsite IPM training that has been approved by the DPR. Go to www.nbsia.org/free-onsite-safety-training to view the detailed IPM training flyer, and to submit a training request form. This training is required annually for anyone who may apply a pesticide at a school.

Resources

The DPR has provided this information in easy-to-read infographics. Go to www.nbsia.org/safety-posters to view and download the posters, available in English and Spanish.

Sources

https://apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/school_ipm_law/antimicrobial_pesticides.pdf
https://apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/school_ipm_law/hand_sanitizers.pdf



Contact Us

(707) 428-1830
www.nbsia.org
MemberServices@nbsia.org