



# Arizona Department of Agriculture

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***NEWS RELEASE***  
***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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## **PROTECT PETS, PEOPLE AND PROPERTY WHEN YOU NEED TO BEAT BUGS**

(Phoenix) If rain and cool weather are driving pests into your home, who are you going to call? Since pesticide control applicators come into your house or onto your lawn, it's important to make sure they know about the chemicals they use and are well trained in application techniques.

"No one really likes bugs whether they are inside your house or in your backyard," said Mark Killian, director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture. "What's worse than the bugs is allowing an unlicensed pesticide applicator into your home. We're aggressively working to weed out unlicensed workers and companies."

Standards and requirements set by the Arizona Department of Agriculture protect consumers from potential danger to family, pets and homes. Concerns about misuse of pesticides range from damage or contamination to your home/property to health threats when pesticides are overused or the applicator doesn't warn the homeowner about dangers. One example is not warning the homeowner about the danger of children or pets playing in the yard for a certain amount of time after an application.

Certified applicators know the dangers and proper procedures because they must prove that knowledge before they are certified. They must pass a state exam and attend classes every year to prove they understand how to read the labels including dangers and proper use. Certified applicators must also demonstrate correct application techniques for different types of pesticides.

"Builders and consumers needing a termite application should be very cautious about which company they hire because of the great financial impact with such treatments," said Vince Craig, assistant director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture. "Once you've chosen a company, you can check the license status on our website."

The public should be aware that a certified applicator cannot provide pest control service without working for a licensed company.

The Department's database contains more than 7,000 certified applicators and about 1,200 companies that provide licensed service. The [registry](#) is searchable by name or application number.

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