



Pesticide Use Notification Plan

for outdoor public spaces

City Campus (Broadway, Ultimo and Haymarket precincts)

2018-2021



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1. Introduction

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Pesticides Regulation 2017* (the Regulation).

The aim of this plan is to meet the community's general right to know about pesticide applications made to outdoor public places owned or controlled by public authorities. The plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid potential contact with pesticides, if they wish. UTS ensures that it uses appropriately licensed and competent pesticide contractors so that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community or the environment.

The plan sets out how UTS will notify members of the community of pesticide applications made by UTS or its contractors to public places.

The plan describes:

- What public places are covered by the plan
- Who regularly uses these public places, and an estimate of the level of use
- How and when UTS will provide the community with information about its pesticide applications in public places (that is, what notification arrangements will be used)
- How the community can access this plan and get more information about UTS's notification arrangements
- How future reviews of the plan will be conducted
- Contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this plan with UTS

This plan forms a component of the UTS integrated pest management system. It applies to all staff, contractors and tenants of UTS.

The majority of pesticide use outdoors involves either applying herbicides for weed control or applying insecticides to manage certain insect pests. Pesticide use includes both programmed (regularly scheduled) treatments as well as reactive or emergency treatments which take place only when an infestation or other problem is detected. The frequency of programmed applications ranges from approximately monthly to annually.

Baits to control rodents are in use constantly and may be supplemented by use of dusting in holes only when rat holes are detected during inspections. Baits are used for termites to protect structures and public safety, wherever this is considered an effective solution. Some insecticides are used such as spraying for cockroaches in select areas (at the current time only in Turners Lane). Other pesticides used include herbicides (to kill weeds) and fungicides (for treating fungus and mould).

2. Public places covered by this plan

This plan applies to the City Campus which comprises dozens of buildings in a number of city precincts including Broadway, Ultimo and Haymarket. Further information about these sites can be found at <https://www.uts.edu.au/about/about-our-campus/places-and-spaces/our-buildings>.

The plan does not apply to our facilities at Moore Park, Botany, or our Health Psychology Unit in St Leonards, as UTS is a tenant at these sites and does not control application of pesticides in outdoor spaces. Nor does it apply to our field station at Stroud or facility at Yarramundi, as these are not readily accessible to members of the public.

UTS proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places within UTS:

- Public lawns and gardens
- Laneways and pathways owned or managed by UTS

UTS does not own or manage any sports fields.

Table 1 summarises the UTS estimate of the level of community use, and regular user groups for each of these public place categories. Although not required by the Regulation, a summary of the type of pesticide use in each category of public place is also provided.

Table 1: UTS estimate of level of community use for categories of public places, with a summary of the type of pesticide used for reach category of public place

Public places owned or controlled by UTS	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Public gardens and lawns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students • Staff • University visitors • Other members of the public (to a lesser extent) 	High (frequent use by multiple users, with short to medium length stays, may have more physical contact in lawn areas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides • Spot insecticides • Broadscale selective herbicides • Broadscale non-selective herbicides • Fungicide (usually on garden beds) • Termite baits • Granules for ants • Rodenticides (baits or dusting)
Laneways and pathways owned or managed by UTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students • Staff • University visitors • Other members of the public (to a lesser extent) 	Medium (frequent use by multiple users, typically passing through)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides • Spot insecticides • Termite baits • Granules for ants • Rodenticides (baits or dusting)

3. Notification arrangements

This section of the plan describes how and when UTS will provide notice of pesticide use in public places. These notification arrangements are based on UTS's assessment of:

- The level of usage of public places where pesticides may be applied
- The extent to which members of the public who are most likely to be sensitive to pesticides (for example, young children, sick, pregnant and elderly people) are likely to use these areas regularly

- The extent to which activities generally undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides
- The type of pesticide used.

Notice of pesticide use will be provided by a combination of:

- Through this Pesticide Use Notification Plan
- Signs at the place of application
- If a significant pest issue, notices may be placed in Staff Notices and Student Notices.

Additional information is available by request, including Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for particular pesticides.

UTS uses small quantities of some pesticides widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes including home gardening. ***UTS does not intend to provide notice for such pesticide applications, other than by way of this description in this plan*** (or general information on the UTS website). This will apply to minor control of indoor and outdoor insect pests using baits or aerosol spray cans, and spot weed control using a wand or hand-held spray bottle. There will also be no notification when insect, rodent and mollusc baiting is conducted in garden beds, car parks, waste collection points and external areas of buildings. These baits are locked and it should not be possible for persons to be exposed to these rodenticides under normal circumstances. Thus, signage will not be provided specifically for this application. There will be no notification of the use of termite baits as the chemicals used are not classed as a poison.

3.1 Notification arrangements for public gardens and lawns

The notification arrangements described below will apply to public gardens and lawn areas owned or controlled by UTS.

For other pesticide application, signs will be erected near the application area or main entrance points immediately prior to application, and for at least the period of avoidance recommended by the manufacturer, for the following pesticide uses:

- Broadscale selective herbicides
- Broadscale non-selective herbicides
- Broadscale insecticides
- Fungicides (on relevant garden beds)
- Ant control

Where any of the above pesticide uses occur adjacent to sensitive places (see Section 3.3 for definition of sensitive places), the occupiers will be provided with at least 48 hours prior targeted notice by email.

3.2 Laneways and pathways owned or managed by UTS

Signs will be displayed on the vehicle, spray cart or equipment as it is applying the pesticide. Mobile signs will also be placed at an approximate 100 metre spacing along the walkway or laneway immediately prior to the application and remain in place until the end of the period of avoidance as specified by the pesticide manufacturer.

3.3 Special measures for sensitive places

Clause 39 of the Regulation defines schools, pre-schools, childcare centres, hospitals, community health centres and nursing homes as a sensitive place.

Pesticide application in the two affiliated childcare centres, Blackfriars and Magic Pudding, is negotiated directly with the centre directors. When pesticides are to be applied in adjacent areas, the director of the relevant childcare centre will be notified in writing at least 48 hours prior, and if they are away, their delegate will be notified. Application in or next to childcare centres will only take place on a weekend.

The UTS Health Service is inside Building 1 and would not be impacted by any outdoor pesticide use.

If a pesticide must be used to deal with an emergency in an outdoor public place that is adjacent to a sensitive place, UTS will call the relevant director, preferably at least 30 minutes before, so that the centre is aware that a pesticide is about to be used to deal with a dangerous pest inspection. If the director is not available, whoever can be contacted will be notified.

If you would like to be included as a sensitive place, please contact us as per the contact details at the end of this plan.

3.4 Emergency pesticide applications

An emergency pesticide application in a public place may be required to deal with biting or dangerous pests (such as rodents, wasps, bees, venomous spiders, fleas, bird mites or similar creatures). In these situations UTS will, where possible, provide notice by posting signs nearby at the time of the application. If this is not possible, UTS will provide information via the Central Services number, 9514 1013 or members of the public can ask for information from the person applying the pesticide.

3.5 Pesticide contractors and lessees of public spaces

UTS typically uses appropriately licensed contractors to apply pesticides, unless domestic products are being used. UTS will ensure that all contractors adhere to the notification requirements of this plan.

Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on UTS property that remains a public place, and if they use pesticides in this area, UTS will still require notification in accordance with the requirements of this plan.

4. What information will be provided

In accordance with clause 41(1)(h) of the Regulation, notices of pesticides use must include all the following information:

- The full product name of the pesticide/s to be used
- The purpose of use, clearly setting out what pest or pests are being treated
- The proposed date/s or date range of the pesticide use
- The place where the pesticide is to be used

- Contact telephone number and email address of the UTS staff member who people can contact to discuss the notice
- Any warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place of application specified on the product label or the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) permit.

Signs will be of a standardised design that will be easily recognisable to the public and workers. A template of the information to be included in the plan is included in Appendix 1.

5. How the community will be informed of this plan

UTS will advise staff, students and interested members of the public by:

- Making a copy of the plan available for public viewing free of charge at the Concierge desk on level 4 of the Tower building (Building 1, entry off Broadway)
- Placing a copy of the plan on the UTS website at <https://www.uts.edu.au/about/about-our-campus/uts-pesticide-use>
- Placing a notice in the local newspaper announcing the consultation phase
- Placing a notice in the *NSW Government Gazette* when the plan is finalised.

6. Future reviews of the plan

The notification plan will be reviewed at least every three years, or sooner if circumstances require it. The review will consider the implementation and effectiveness of the Plan to identify potential improvements.

Where there are significant changes to the Plan, the public consultation process which established the original Plan will be repeated. When there are minor updates to the Plan, the public will be notified through an update to the Plan on the website.

7. Contact details

Anyone wishing to contact UTS to discuss the notification plan or to obtain specific details of pesticide applications in public places should contact:

Manager, Cleaning, Grounds and Waste

UTS Central Services

Level 2, Building 1

15 Broadway, ULTIMO NSW 2007

Phone: (02) 9514 1013

Email: centralservices@uts.edu.au (Please put *Pesticide notification query* in subject line)

After hours contact: Security (02) 9514 1192 (NB: they cannot answer detailed technical questions but will refer them)

Or visit <https://www.uts.edu.au/about/about-our-campus/uts-pesticide-use>

Appendix 1

Template of pesticide notification signage

Full product name of the pesticide	
Active constituent within the pesticide	
Purpose of use (pest or pests being treated)	
Proposed date/s or date range of the pesticide use	
Location of pesticide use	
Any warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place of application specified on the product label or the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) permit.	

Information about pesticide use can be found in the UTS *Pesticide Use Notification Plan* which is available on the website <https://www.uts.edu.au/about/about-our-campus/uts-pesticide-use>

Specific information on this pesticide application is available from:

Manager, Cleaning, Grounds and Waste
Phone (02) 9514 1013
Email: centralservices@uts.edu.au