

## **Pesticide Control and Odour Control Measures for Temporary Waste Sites**

The City has opened [temporary drop-off sites](#) at a number of locations for the duration of the labour disruption. All sites have received approval from the provincial Ministry of the Environment for use as temporary garbage storage sites. Inspectors from Toronto Public Health monitor the sites on a daily basis. The locations will also be provided with professional pest and odour controls.

Following visits by Toronto Public Health on July 3 to several of the temporary garbage drop-off sites and in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, the City amended its spraying protocol. Daily spraying for odour control continues, however now pest control spraying is based on results of a daily individual site inspection. This has the potential to reduce the amount of pest control spraying.

Pest control includes spraying and traps. The chemical in the spray is the same one used in shampoos to treat head lice and is half the concentration found in the shampoo. The sprays are quick-drying and are broken down by exposure to sunlight. The spray is applied directly to the garbage on site and there is minimal drifting of the spray. The bait in the traps is secured in locked, anchored and tamper-proof stations.

The following provides further information on pest and odour control measures:

### **Q: What is being used to control rodents and insects at the temporary garbage sites?**

#### **A: Generation Mini Blocks**

- Traps containing the Rodenticide Difethialone will be placed around the site. The bait is secured in locked, anchored and tamper-proof stations. [More information](#) about rodent control.

#### **Dragnet FT**

- Garbage sites will be sprayed with the insecticide permethrin. Permethrin is a common product used to kill and repel flies, mosquitos and lice. It is found in shampoos for treating head lice.

#### **O.C.S. Deodorant**

- Odours will be treated with a deodorant spray that also contains the microbicide alkyl dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride (ADBAC). This is a common product in indoor cleaners, and when used properly, is considered safe for human health by Health Canada

### **Q: Will the public come into contact with these products?**

**A:** Each site is closed and cleared of people before spraying begins. The chemicals are sprayed directly on the garbage using a hose from a tanker truck and are applied at a distance of up to four feet (from the nozzle to the surface of the garbage). Depending on site and weather conditions, there can be up to a 10-20 foot radius of dispersal of the product around the targeted area, so this area is kept cleared while the spraying takes place. During heavy rainfall and/or high winds, spraying is postponed.

#### **Dragnet FT (insecticide containing permethrin)**

- The City is taking every precaution available so that the public is unlikely to come into contact with permethrin. Dragnet FT dries quickly after being sprayed on the garbage and controls are in place to minimize the spray drifting beyond the garbage.
- Those most likely to come into contact with this insecticide are staff applying the insecticide or handling the garbage. Staff wear protective clothing to limit contact with the product.
- Short term use of permethrin at temporary garbage sites is not expected to have negative human health impacts. Residents should avoid areas being sprayed and avoid bringing family pets into the immediate vicinity of the temporary garbage sites and transfer stations.

#### **Generation Mini Blocks (rodenticide containing difethialone)**

- Blocks of difethialone are used as rodent bait. The public is unlikely to come into contact with the bait because it is placed directly into the garbage pile. Difethialone kills rodents and may be toxic to other

animals. Avoid bringing family pets into the immediate vicinity of the temporary garbage sites and transfer stations.

#### **O.C.S. Deodorant**

- This liquid is sprayed directly onto the garbage. It contains ADBAC, which is considered safe by Health Canada when used with appropriate precautions.

#### **Q: Is it safe to be at the sites when being sprayed?**

**A:** Technicians are taking precautions to minimize the public's exposure during spraying. Residents should avoid being in close proximity to the garbage when spraying is in progress. Signs will be erected at all sites sprayed with pesticides to let residents know that the chemical has been used.

#### **Q: How long after spraying should people wait to visit a temporary drop-off site or a nearby park?**

**A:** The sprays are quick-drying and are broken down by exposure to sunlight. Because the spray is applied directly to the garbage on site and there is minimal drifting of the spray, residents should be able to use nearby areas at all times.

#### **Q: Why is it essential to use pesticides on the garbage?**

**A:** The City is committed to ensuring the health and safety of its residents. While the use of pesticides has been minimized on city properties under normal conditions, these are not normal conditions. Large amounts of garbage are accumulating and being exposed to very warm weather conditions. The flies and rodents attracted to garbage temporary drop-off sites can carry disease. The products that are being used are those determined to be the most effective in dealing with the extraordinary conditions at these temporary drop-off sites.

#### **Q: Will these temporary garbage sites be safe once the garbage is removed?**

**A:** After permethrin has been applied outdoors, it may be present in the soil and on the surface of plants, but is broken down in sunlight. Permethrin on soil and plant surfaces may be washed into surface waters by rain.

To ensure safety, the temporary garbage sites located on paved surfaces will be swept and flushed after all garbage has been removed.

The soil or grassy areas used as temporary waste sites (only Moss Park) will be lined with tarpaulins thus limiting soil contamination concerns.

In the sites adjacent to parks facilities such as playgrounds and sports fields, the soil will be tested and remediated on a priority basis with appropriate measures.

#### **Q. Are closed temporary drop-off sites sprayed?**

**A.** Effective July 20, [closed temporary sites](#) are being sprayed to control odours only during the day as well as at night. Daytime odour control spraying will take place daily between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. at three of the closed temporary garbage drop-off sites: Earls court Park, Ted Reeve Arena and Christie Pits.

This liquid deodorant is sprayed directly onto the garbage. It contains a common product found in indoor cleaners, and when used properly, is considered safe for human health by Health Canada.

The change of spray schedule does not include the separate night time application of pest control spraying, which will continue as established and as required.