

# Do You Need A Pesticide License or Certificate?

Pesticides include insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, (many other '-icides'), plant growth regulators, defoliants, and desiccants.

Click [here](#) to learn more about what a pesticide is and is not.

Federal and state laws require some users of pesticides to become certified and licensed.

This flowchart will help you determine how to comply with these laws in North Carolina.

Click on links throughout for more information.

Do you apply [restricted-use pesticides](#) to crops or commodities on land you own or manage?

YES

You need a **Private Pesticide Applicator Certificate**.

- To become certified as a Private Applicator, you will need to pass a closed-book exam based on the "[N.C. Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual](#)."
- You have the option of attending a Pesticide School before taking the exam OR only taking the exam.
- To register for a School and order your manual go to [www.pesticidemanuals.com](http://www.pesticidemanuals.com).
- If you prefer to not attend a School, [contact the NCDA&CS](#) to sign up for an Exam-Only location.
- Once you pass the exam, you will pay a certification fee to receive your certificate.

NO

Do you apply general-use pesticides (the kind you can buy at Home & Garden retailers) on your own property or as a volunteer (e.g., apply herbicide to your yard or community garden)?

YES

You **do not** need a Pesticide License or Certificate.

NO

Are you compensated to apply pesticides as part of your business or in your job description?

YES

Do you treat house-hold pests or pests that affect structures (E.g. termites)?

YES

You need a **Structural Pesticide Applicator's Registered Technician Card, Certification, or License**. For more information on the differences of these credentials visit this site: <http://ncagr.gov/SPCAP/structural/certify.htm>

NO

You need a **Commercial Ground Applicator's License**. The **subcategory** you need depends on what/where you are treating. Consult the NCDA&CS's website for definitions. <http://ncagr.gov/SPCAP/pesticides/CATEGEXP.HTM>

## How Do You Get A Commercial Pesticide Applicator or Public Operators License?

- Once you know the subcategory you need and the exams required for the license, you can order the study manuals online at [www.pesticidemanuals.com](http://www.pesticidemanuals.com).
- You then have the option of attending a Pesticide School before taking the exam or taking the exams without the school.
- To register for a school, which reviews the Core manual and certain subcategories over a day and a half, you can go to [www.pesticidemanuals.com](http://www.pesticidemanuals.com).
- If you prefer to not attend a School, contact the NCDA&CS to take the exam at any of [these locations](#).
- Once you pass the exams, if you aren't a Public Operator (*employees of federal, state, county, or municipal governments who apply pesticides in the course of their jobs*), you will pay the annual licensing fee and get your license.

## How Do You Get A Structural Pesticide Applicator Registered Technician Card, Certification, or License?

- For Structural Pest Control, you must first be a Registered Technician, which requires the completion of the [Registered Technician School](#).
- Once you are a Registered Technician, you can then become **Certified** in one or more of three phases (P, W, F). You must pass the Core Exam and a Structural Exam based on the Core and Structural Manuals which can be purchased on [www.pesticidemanuals.com](http://www.pesticidemanuals.com).
- After appropriate experience/education as a Certified Structural Pest Control Applicator, you can take the exam to become **Licensed**. Contact the NCDA for requirements.
- For a list of recommended study materials and more information about a Structural License visit the [NCDA&CS Structural Licensing & Certification Page](#).

For more information about the process of getting a license, to order Pesticide Education study manuals, or to register for a Pesticide School visit us online at: <http://pesticidesafety.ces.ncsu.edu/steps-to-get-a-pesticide-license/>