



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FERTILIZER LAW

What you need to know FERTILIZER DISTRIBUTERS & RETAILERS

This law applies specifically to fertilizer that is applied to turf.

Effective April 20, 2013, entities that distribute or sell fertilizer in the District of Columbia must comply with requirements for how fertilizer is labeled.

In addition, the District's Fertilizer Law outlines requirements for lawn care professionals on how, when, and where to apply fertilizer and the types of fertilizer they can use, and encourages residents to voluntarily comply with these requirements.

WHY REGULATE FERTILIZER?

Applying fertilizer correctly benefits plants and can be safe for the environment, but when applied incorrectly, fertilizer runoff has damaging effects. Stormwater sweeps fertilizers downstream into our stormdrains and into Rock Creek and the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers. Once in our water bodies fertilizer can cause dangerous algal blooms that are harmful to aquatic and human life. The District's Fertilizer Law is an important step toward ensuring that our waterways are fishable and swimmable.

SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR RETAILERS

Effective June 28, 2016, stores that sell fertilizer for turf must also prominently display the Fertilizer Law sign, which can be downloaded from DOEE's website.

FIND OUT MORE. Visit doee.dc.gov/fertilizer for more information and to download the law and Fertilizer Law Sign.

LABELING REQUIREMENTS

Fertilizer distributors and retailers in the District must comply with labeling requirements, which align with similar legislation passed in Maryland and Virginia. Fertilizer must be labeled according to one of the following two options:

Option 1 - Display your own label following the specifications outlined in the District's Fertilizer Law.

Option 2 - Display the EPA's Environmental Hazard Statement for that product.

ENFORCEMENT

Applicators, distributors, and retailers will be subject to inspections. Those who fail to comply may be fined.