

# APPLICATION OF HERBICIDES (WEEDKILLER) WITHIN THE WATER CATCHMENT AREA



Guernsey's streams, reservoirs and groundwater are at risk from pollution by relatively small quantities of herbicides. European Community and UK Water Quality Regulations stipulate that an individual herbicide in drinking water should not exceed 100 nanograms per litre (one part per ten thousand million).

**The Prevention of Pollution (Guernsey) Law, 1989, states that 'No person shall cause or permit the occurrence of pollution, or cause or permit a risk of pollution to arise'.**

In order to ensure compliance with the Law, Guernsey Water advises that herbicides should not be applied to high risk areas such as stream banks, ponds, wet meadows, marshy areas, douits, drainage ditches, above ground or underground culverts within the Water Catchment Area. These guidelines apply even if the areas are dry at the time of the proposed application and even if the herbicide labelling indicates suitability for use in or near watercourses.

Herbicides should not be applied in wet conditions or if rain is forecast as this can lead to run-off contaminating local watercourses. Herbicides should also not be applied in windy conditions as spray drift may damage plants or crops on neighbouring properties.

## ■ APPLICATION OF HERBICIDES BY SPRAYING

This should not be carried out **within three metres of the high risk areas identified above**. On paved surfaces this margin needs to be extended because the risk of run-off polluting a watercourse is greatly increased and you will need to consider where surface water might drain to.

## ■ LOCALISED DIRECT APPLICATION OF HERBICIDES



This application, using 'weed wipe' or similar proprietary systems, may be carefully carried out **within the three metre safety margin** but should not be carried out within one metre of the high risk areas. The disposal of empty herbicide containers, waste herbicides or washings from containers requires particular care.

To avoid pollution, washings from herbicide containers must not be allowed to enter surface water gullies or drains. *For further advice or in the event of a spillage, Guernsey Water should be contacted on 239500 (either during working hours or at any other time).*

## ■ COMMERCIAL APPLICATION OF HERBICIDES

The application of herbicides to commercial premises, including agricultural and horticultural use, must only be undertaken by persons holding a certificate of competence. *For further reference, please contact the Commerce and Employment Department on telephone number 235741.*

**Please note that in order to protect the Island's water resources and to safeguard the local environment, Guernsey Water's policy is to initiate prosecution in all cases where the negligent application of chemicals has led to pollution or a high risk of pollution occurring.**