

Materials and Screening Protocol

The Screening Process

The GREEN, YELLOW, and SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE MATERIALS LISTS have been developed using common screening protocols adopted by many municipalities throughout the country. The lists are not intended to be adopted in whole, but rather to serve as a reference list for zone management. For example, if a YELLOW MATERIAL contact herbicide is currently being used, the list may identify a GREEN MATERIAL contact herbicide that may be substituted, thus reducing the risk of the pesticide application.

This hazard screening protocol was developed by Dr. Philip Dickey of the Washington Toxics Coalition to screen pesticides for a number of human and environmental hazards, including carcinogenicity, reproductive toxicity, endocrine disruption, acute hazard, soil mobility, groundwater contamination potential, half-life, and eco-toxicity. The pesticides are sorted into four 'Hazard Tiers', with Tier 1 materials showing positive on one significant hazard indicator, Tier 2 materials having some hazard which may be mitigated with application methods. Tier 3 materials show 'negative' for all significant hazard indicators, and Tier 4 materials demonstrating data gaps.

This screening protocol was adopted by the City/County of San Francisco, which included both a 'Hazard Tier' as well as a practical 'Use Category' overlay ('Allowed', 'Limited', 'Limited/Special Concern'). This step puts a practical overlay to the hazard designation. However, both San Francisco and Seattle utilize nearly identical screening protocol.

The differences in the lists arise primarily from the initial screening of different materials. Each jurisdiction has screened materials that were in use at their own locations, thus the final lists reflect only those materials intended for use by these jurisdictions. The lists are not comprehensive of all pesticides, and should not be adopted in whole. Rather, jurisdictions seeking information about specific pesticides may find it within these lists, or may find an adequate substitute.

At the time of the printing of this handbook, this system is becoming widely accepted as the most comprehensive and practical screening protocol to date.

GREEN PESTICIDES:

- San Francisco Tier 3, Tier 2 Allowed Use
- Seattle Tier 3
- EPA Registration Exempt

YELLOW PESTICIDES:

- San Francisco Tier 2 Limited Use
- Seattle Tier 2

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE PESTICIDES:

- San Francisco Tier 1, Tier 2 Limited Use/Special Concern
- Seattle Tier 1

Efforts are on-going to standardize the hazard screening protocol across California, and the PHAER method will adopt whatever system emerges from these activities. It is recommended to periodically review the cited information sources for updates and review of new materials.