

# Mandatory distances for the storage, preparation and application of pesticides for green space maintenance (including golf courses) and pest management

September 2023

This table is made available for the purposes of sections 15, 29, 29.1, 30.4, 35 and 50 of the [Pesticides Management Code](#).

Protection targets	Storage	Preparation	Application
	Anyone storing pesticides of classes 1 to 3	Permit or certificate holders <sup>1</sup>	Permit or certificate holders <sup>1</sup>
Lakes Watercourses Wetlands	30 m (s. 15)	30 m (s. 35)	3 m (s. 29)  Exceptions (0 m): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tree or shrub injection to control insect pests or parasitic disease (s. 29)</li> <li>When monitoring certain plants, subject to conditions (s. 29.1)</li> <li>Except if the pesticide was authorized as part of a research and experimentation project under s. 29 of the <i>Environment Quality Act</i> (s. 30.4)</li> </ul> Applies to any user of Class 1 to Class 5 pesticides, including the general public
Categories 1 or 2 and bottled water withdrawal sites	100 m (s. 15)	100 m (s. 35)	100 m (s. 50)
Category 3 water withdrawal sites	30 m (s. 15)	30 m (s. 35)	30 m (art. 50)  Application by C4, C5, D4 or D5 permit holders (except golf courses): 3 m
Other water withdrawal sites	30 m (s. 15)	30 m (s. 35)	3 m (art. 50)
Daycares Schools	—	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30 m if a knapsack or air-blast equipment is used, except if it includes a horizontal boom or spray jet (s. 50)</li> <li>3 m for all other types of equipment during the period of activities carried out on or off the premises (s. 50)</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, permit and/or certificate holders are required to comply with these obligations during pesticide usage that require a permit or certificate.

## DEFINITIONS

### **Daycares (as defined in the *Pesticides Management Code*)**

Early childhood centres, daycares and home childcare residences governed by the *Educational Childcare Act*. Distance from a daycare is measured from the property line.

### **Schools (as defined in the *Pesticides Management Code*)**

Preschools, primary or secondary schools governed by the *Education Act*, the *Education Act for Cree, Inuit and Naskapi Native persons* or the *Act respecting private education*. Distance from a school is measured from the property line.

### **Watercourse (defined in the *Regulation respecting activities in wetlands, bodies of water and sensitive areas*)**

Any mass of water running along a bed in a regular or intermittent flow, including a bed created or altered by human intervention, the St. Lawrence River, the estuary of the St. Lawrence River, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and all the seas surrounding Québec, excluding a ditch.

The relative distance to a watercourse is measured horizontally from the boundary of the littoral zone. The “littoral zone” means the part of a lake or watercourse that extends from the boundary separating the littoral zone from the lakeshore or riverbank towards the centre of the body of water. If there is an embankment, the distance must include a width of at least 1 m from the top of the embankment.

### **Water withdrawal sites (defined in the *Water Withdrawal and Protection Regulation*)**

- **Category 1:** water withdrawals carried out for a municipal waterworks system supplying more than 500 persons and at least one residence
- **Category 2:** water withdrawals carried out to supply a municipal waterworks system supplying between 21 and 500 persons and at least one residence; any other waterworks system supplying 21 or more persons and at least one residence; a system, independent from a waterworks system, supplying at least 21 or more persons at one or more educational institutions, one or more detention facilities, or one or more health and social services institutions within the meaning of the *Regulation respecting the quality of drinking water*
- **Category 3:** water withdrawals carried out to supply a system, independent from a waterworks system, supplying only one or more food processing establishments; a system, independent from a waterworks system supplying only one or more enterprises, one or more tourist establishments or one or more seasonal tourist establishments within the meaning of the *Regulation respecting the quality of drinking water*; any other system supplying 20 persons or fewer.
- **Other groundwater withdrawal sites:** all other sites of water withdrawal not intended for human consumption, food processing or bottled water purposes

### **Wetland (defined in the *Regulation respecting activities in wetlands, bodies of water and sensitive areas*)**

Area characterized in particular by hydromorphic soils or vegetation dominated by hygrophilous species, such as a pond, marsh, swamp or peatland. A reference to a “wetland” excludes a peat bog being harvested.

The relative distance to a wetland is measured horizontally from the boundary. The “boundary” means a line marking the limit of a wetland and corresponding to the point at which the soil ceases to be hydromorphic and the vegetation ceases to be dominated by hygrophilous species, in relation to the area where at least one of those conditions does apply. If there is an embankment, the distance must include a width of at least 1 m from the top of the embankment.

For more information, see the [Pesticides Management Code reference guide](#) (French).