

Discovery Pesticides, Maine - The Goods, The Bads

Findings: Even in Maine, pesticide companies are contracting with certain motels in the area for once-monthly visits. If you have sensitivity to pesticides, hotel costumer beware.

The Goods

Maine has specific pesticide requirements that can apply to both motels/hotels and apartments, particularly when pesticides are applied **inside occupied buildings**.

Apartments / rented residential units

Maine Board of Pesticides Control **Chapter 26** applies to rented residential buildings. For indoor pesticide applications that aren't exempt, the applicator generally must provide the resident with **written notice at least 24 hours and no more than 7 days before the application**. The notice must explain that pesticides may be used and provide information about the resident's rights. ([Maine](#))

There are exceptions. For example, certain baits, gels, pastes, dusts, granular products, and crack-and-crevice treatments in locations that aren't readily accessible to residents can be exempt from some of the notification requirements. ([Maine](#))

Importantly, Maine's rules also state that **a pesticide application generally cannot be made to a residence when the tenant objects**, unless a public-health or code-enforcement official has determined that immediate pest management is necessary. ([Maine](#))

Motels / hotels

Maine has particularly relevant rules for **lodging establishments**, which include hotels and motels. The Maine Board of Pesticides Control has stated that pesticide applications to lodging places and apartment buildings generally must be conducted under the **direct supervision of a licensed commercial applicator**, unless the **entire building is closed to the public for seven days**. ([Maine](#))

That is significant if you're asking about a motel room where a guest was staying or was expected to stay shortly after an indoor pesticide treatment.

If you suspect a motel sprayed your room

You can ask the motel for:

1. **What pesticide/product was applied**
2. **The date and time it was applied**
3. **Where it was applied**
4. **The name of the applicator/company**
5. **The applicator's Maine license information**

6. **The required pesticide notice**
7. **The product label and Safety Data Sheet (SDS)**
8. **When the room was considered safe for occupancy**
9. **Whether the room was vacant during the application**
10. **Whether other rooms or common areas were treated**

Maine's Board of Pesticides Control specifically says people can report inappropriate pesticide use, and reports can be made anonymously. Their listed contact number is **207-287-2731**. ([Maine](#))

The Who's

The board was established 1965. Reorganization 1973, placed within Department of Ag. Board members may be selected by the governor. Please see attached document 2019, Janet Mills.

Source: <https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/22/title22sec1471-B.html>

Source: https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/pesticides/documents2/bd_mtgs/jun19/BPC%206-7-19%20all%20docs%20exc%20rulemaking.pdf