

Pesticide Journal

Shift Change → I received an email outside of the apartment application, which had been used for all maintenance communications. I emailed back, stating that the issue had already been remedied.

No Response → I sent multiple emails stating that I did not want the property sprayed. I never received a response.

Differing Stories → I was told that I would be contacted and that an appointment would be made.

Lack of Knowledge, Warning → I did not know what the company was, what they were planning to do, or when they intended to do it.

No Communication → I was never contacted after this point and thought that the situation had been remedied, as I had already taken care of the problem.

Secretive Entrance, Trespassing → I noticed a man walking around my yard and looking into my window. I became scared and thought I might be experiencing an intruder, though I was not sure. I locked the door and messaged management.

Looking Into Window From Vehicle → I noticed them looking into the window from a vehicle.

Failure to Warn → The man came back with his spray canister and began spraying without speaking with me.

Attempt to Stop → Unaware and in shock, I asked them where they were spraying and what they were spraying. I told him that I was very allergic and briefly described that I did not want to be sprayed, though I was still in shock, I did not verbalize as firm as I wish I could have.

Health Reaction → Within hours, I experienced a health reaction and was devastated by the experience. I was still in shock. For the next ten days, I experienced disabling reproductive pain, stress and emotional suffering. I have never experienced stomach or reproductive pain as severe as this. I immediately began the process of contacting the claims company, lawyers, and notifying the office that I would be moving out. I packed my belongings as quickly as I could within the first few days of experiencing the pain, placing them into containers, bringing my clothes out to my vehicle, and considering whether or not I would be able to keep my furniture after the exposure.

This time, they sprayed outside rather than inside. However, that evening, the wind and dust blew heavily toward the house, moving particles indoors.

I had already moved from Florida to flee pesticide use. Here in Arizona, it is also very “normalized.” I have had to really exercise my voice on the matter here as well. I made sure that the landlord did not spray my apartment upon moving in and made sure that they knew I was not to be sprayed. Yet, I was still unable to deter this awful experience.

Unfortunately, I found that pesticide companies have a history of trespassing and intruding on the properties of others with these volatile and toxic sprays. This “experience” is normalized. It’s very disturbing.

The “gaslighting” surrounding the spray is that it is a “luxury” offered by apartments and that it is not toxic at all, with claims that even dogs can lick it and be fine. This is very far from reality. My experience is not rare; it is a health reaction that occurs following exposure to pesticides, which is why so many people have fought these pesticide companies and advocated for stronger restrictions.

Even a small teaspoon breathed in can be fatal. Let’s consider this understanding. It should **NEVER, EVER** be sprayed without warning, without full consent after warning, and without clear communication regarding where, when, and how it will be administered.

What if I had animals? A cat or dog? What if I was not home and never knew they were on my property? I removed my bird feeders and have only stepped out onto my property once since. I now don’t open the windows or the doors. It is no way to live, but I am afraid of these toxins. Even while writing at my table, I can feel the pesticides entering my ear canals and causing a burning sensation. Prior, I opened my windows and doors every morning to get fresh air, and had even gotten to know the neighbors this way. I moved my couch and bed to the middle of the room. All of my belongings are now packed in containers.

There was no knock on my front door. A man walked through a guarding bush outside of my property, opened the back door by unlatching it from the inside, a door that should never be opened by anyone other than me and only with my full consent, and entered my property with no notice. The spraying then began with no warning or consultation.

This experience occurred completely against my will. I never would have agreed or consented. I had already been healing from a previous pesticide exposure. I had already suffered the loss of thousands of dollars in an effort to rid my clothing and furniture of pesticides. I had already conducted extensive research on these products, studying everything from World War II history to health hazards and lawsuits. I published paper after paper on the hazards of pesticides.

Yet here I am, moving out of a pesticide environment once again.

There really is no other way to express this: **pesticide exposure without meaningful regulation, oversight, warning, consent, or accountability is toxic vandalism. Given the potential harm involved, the lack of safeguards the experience feels like chemical warfare.**