



## OVER-THE-COUNTER PESTICIDES

Avoid using  
over-the-counter  
pesticides to get rid  
of bed bugs,  
cockroaches  
or rodents

It is **not recommended** to apply pesticides yourself. Application should be done by a pest control specialist certified by the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MELCC).



### WHY?

#### ▶ HEALTH RISKS

Pesticides can cause health problems in people who use them and in other residents in the building. Digestive problems; difficulty breathing; skin irritation; headaches, etc.

Using unauthorized pesticides in Canada (e.g., imported from another country) is illegal and can be dangerous to health.



#### ▶ SPREAD OF INSECTS

Improper use of pesticides can cause insects to migrate elsewhere in the building, making their extermination even more difficult. These products should be applied by trained certified pest control specialists.

#### ▶ INSECT RESISTANCE

Improperly applied pesticides are not effective. Insects can develop resistance to the product, which then reduces the number of products that can be used effectively to control infestations.

**If there are harmful insects or rodents in a dwelling, tenants must do the following:**

### 1 Notify the owner quickly

It is best to send the owner a registered letter that includes a time limit to take action (1 week after receiving the letter, for example). The owner must hire a certified pest control specialist to correct the situation.



### 2 File a complaint with the borough or municipality

If the owner doesn't take action within the time limit indicated in your letter, you can file a complaint with the City of Montréal: call 311 or contact your municipality.



If you wish to ask for compensation or to break your lease, you must contact the Tribunal administratif du logement (previously called Régie du logement): <https://www.tal.gouv.qc.ca/en>

At each step, you can get help from your neighbourhood housing committee (<https://rclalq.qc.ca/comites-logement/>).

*Pesticides are substances used to control harmful insects or rodents. Insecticides are pesticides.*



### What to do if you suspect pesticides have not been used correctly?

To report improper use of pesticides, contact **Health Canada's National Pesticide Compliance Program** at 514-283-7306 or [hc.info.pesticides.quebec.sc@canada.ca](mailto:hc.info.pesticides.quebec.sc@canada.ca).

### What to do if you have symptoms?

If you have been exposed to pesticides or have symptoms following their application, call the **Poison Control Centre** at 1-800-463-5060.



**IMPORTANT :**  
In case of loss of consciousness or difficulty breathing, call 911.

## Roles and responsibilities

### TENANTS AND OWNERS

According to the Civil Code of Québec,

- the tenant must quickly notify the owner of any defect or deterioration in the dwelling;
- the owner is responsible for providing adequate housing and for getting needed repairs or extermination work done to correct the situation.

### MUNICIPALITIES

The City of Montréal and some linked cities have regulations on safety and sanitation that allow them to intervene with owners when there are vermin (insects and rodents) in dwellings.

### MINISTÈRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DE LA LUTTE CONTRE LES CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES (MELCC)

The MELCC issues permits to pest control companies and certificates to pest control specialists that allow them to apply pesticides.

### HEALTH CANADA

Health Canada's National Pesticide Compliance Program makes sure that only pesticides authorized for use in Canada are used, and used correctly.

**You can be held responsible and be subject to legal proceedings if you use pesticides that cause health problems in one or more individuals.**

## ! WHAT YOU NEED TO REMEMBER:

- Avoid using over-the-counter pesticides.
- Extermination of harmful insects and rodents is the owner's responsibility.
- Pesticides must be applied by a pest control specialist trained and certified by the MELCC.
- Pesticides unauthorized for use in Canada must not be utilized.

### For more information

#### Bed bugs

[Santé Montréal - Bed bugs](#)

[City of Montréal - Let's Fight Bedbugs](#)

[Government of Québec - Recognising bed bugs and preventing infestation](#)

#### Cockroaches

[Santé Montréal - Cockroaches](#)

[Government of Canada - Cockroaches](#)

#### Pesticides

[Government of Québec - Pesticides and health risks](#)

[Health Canada - Health Canada Warns Canadians Not to Use Unregistered Bedbug Control Products](#)

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