

VOCs Associated With Pesticide and Herbicide Spraying

It is the time of year where farmers, business owners, and homeowners begin to apply pesticide and herbicide products to their land to control the emergence of pests and weeds. Most of the active ingredients in these products are semi-volatile or nonvolatile, but still can cause health issues due to breathing dust or coming into contact with surfaces contaminated with these materials. However, the main VOC issues are associated with the solvents used that serve as carriers for transport of the active ingredient. These solvent vapors can encroach into the indoor air of adjacent homes and the associated odors can be aesthetically unpleasant.

A business had to be evacuated last year because workers applied a pesticide spray to the outer walls of the establishment. The building had to be ventilated for an entire weekend to help reduce the residual odor from the C₈ – C₁₂ petroleum mixture that was used as the pesticide carrier. Heavy solvents are often used because these solvents don't evaporate as quickly and allow the active ingredient to soak into the surrounding soil more effectively.

Indoor and outdoor foggers help to reduce and control the insect population, but care must be taken to assure safety of pets and children. Foggers commonly are propelled by propane, butane, or isobutane, but also contain petroleum distillates that can leave a lingering odor.

About Prism Analytical Technologies, Inc.

Prism Analytical Technologies, Inc. is a leading consultative air testing laboratory in the United States that is devoted to the chemical identification and analysis of contaminants in the air. We are a recognized leader in the development and deployment of ambient air testing methodologies for Fortune 100 and 500 companies, industrial hygienists, and environmental consultants. Prism's science-based technologies and wide range of air testing support help clients solve indoor air quality, process control, industrial, and environmental challenges.