



The University of Hong Kong

SAFETY MATTERS

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To: List "C" & also posted in the Intranet

Safety Guidelines for Pesticidal Fumigator Application

The use of pesticidal fumigators seems to have attracted popularity in the campus and its casual applications have caused unnecessary inconvenience and false fire alarms from time to time. This is particularly notable during those few months when new students and staff members start to move in. Such inconvenience can be avoided if adequate steps are taken before application. Please bring this circular to the attention of your colleagues or students.

The pesticide in question can be readily available from department stores and supermarkets in the form of small cans. By adding water to the chemicals in the can, fumes will be released automatically in about 1 to 2 minutes. The fume is a bit choking and has a slight pungent smell.

Experience has shown that even with the mechanical ventilation of the room or floor switched off and with the doors closed, the fumes cannot be contained satisfactorily within the room. It can leak through the air ducts, doors etc. to adjacent rooms and corridors. The presence of the fume and smell may arouse concern and sometimes even fears among the other occupants who are not made aware of its presence and nature before hand.

The following measures are helpful in reducing the nuisance when such pesticidal fumigators or similar ones are to be used.

1. Check that the product has a Pesticide Registration Number (1 PXX) to ensure it is a registered product and is safe for use.
2. Check out the quantity required for the area to be fumigated from the product information. Do not over dose.
3. Read and most important understand and follow the product instruction. Pay particular attention to the venting time required for safe entry.

4. Before application, switch off the ventilation system of the room to be fumigated. Inform your neighbours and the Security Office (Ext. 2882). Label the room "Fumigation in Progress" at the entrance door in English & Chinese.

5. Check in advance with Safety Office (Ext. 2400) on whether isolation of the fire detection system is required. Fire detectors which are installed in bedrooms and corridors of student residential halls, some office floors and plant rooms are responsive to the fume. The fume will activate the smoke detectors, trigger off the fire alarm, alert the Fire Brigade and the University Security automatically. Don't attempt to cover up the detectors as may be suggested in some product instruction. Safety Office can arrange isolation of the fire detection system upon request.



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c.c. Dr. Clement Wong – Estates Office
Hall Managers