



Lampricide Safety Information for Employees

About Lampricides

Lampricides are chemical treatments (pesticides) that are used to control sea lamprey populations. They are used to kill the young, developing sea lamprey larvae before they reach the adult stage.

Lampricides are added to rivers and streams and come in both liquid and pellet (granular) form.¹ Common lampricides include TFM (3-Trifluoromethyl-4-Nitrophenol) and niclosamide (Bayluscide).² They have both been used around the Great Lakes since the 1960s to kill sea lampreys.³

It usually takes two to three days to apply lampricide to an area. However, this may take up to one week if the treatment area is large.²

Health Effects

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, lampricides pose little to no health risk to people when used as directed and safety guidelines are followed.⁴ If someone is exposed to lampricide treatments, symptoms may include skin irritation, eye irritation, or a headache.⁵

Safety Recommendations

- You must strictly follow the chemical's directions to ensure it is used correctly. This helps minimize the negative effects on human health and environmental health. The directions are provided in the Manual for Application of Lampricides in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sea Lamprey Control Program.⁴
- Always wear the following personal protective equipment (PPE) when handling lampricide to protect yourself against chemical splashes, spills, or dust⁶:
 - Long-sleeved shirt and long pants
 - Rubber boots and socks
 - Chemical-resistant gloves
 - Chemical-resistant aprons
 - Face shield
 - Respirator that is approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
- If the chemical gets on your clothing, remove it as soon as possible and put on clean clothing.
- Remove PPE immediately after handling or being around the chemical. Wash the outside of the gloves before removing them. Change into clean clothing.
- Clean or dispose of the PPE as soon as possible after use. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and maintaining them. Any PPE that can be washed in the laundry should be washed in its own, separate load.
- Wash your hands with soap and water. Make sure to wash your hands for at least 20 seconds before eating, drinking, or using the toilet.
- Lampricide should always be stored in its original container.
- Containers that hold lampricide should always be in a place where spills and leaks can be contained.
- If a container is leaking or has spilled, contain the spill with a barrier using a material that can soak up liquids. Do not walk through the spilled chemical.
- Excess lampricide waste must be disposed of properly. Improper disposal is considered hazardous and a violation of federal law. For more information about proper disposal, contact the hazardous waste representative at the nearest EPA regional office.⁷

Steps to Take if Exposed to Lampricide

Follow the steps below if you are exposed to the chemical⁸:

- **If on Your Skin:** Remove any contaminated clothing. Wash the area with soap and clean water. Have additional clean clothing handy.
- **If in Your Eye:** Rinse your eyes gently with clean water for at least 15 minutes. Reach out to a health care professional if you have eye irritation.
- **If Swallowed:** Rinse your mouth with clean water. Contact Poison Control at 800-222-1222 or a health clinic immediately.
- **If Breathed in:** Move to an area with fresh air. Contact a health care professional if you feel nauseous, dizzy, or have trouble breathing.

Sources

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