



## Message from Southwark Trading Standards illegal insecticide / pest poison Are you selling banned goods?

### 1. Introduction

Trading Standards have occasionally found a product called **Sniper DDVP** on sale in the borough. It contains a banned substance called **Dichlorvos** also known as **DDVP** (dichlorovinyl-dimethylphosphate).

**It is illegal to advertise, sell, or supply any products containing DDVP.**

This leaflet explains more about the issue.

### 2. Ban on pesticides / insecticides containing DDVP

Pesticides and insecticides (which are both biocides) have the potential to kill or harm humans, pets and wild life. They can also cause permanent environmental damage. For these reasons strict safety and product licensing regulations control what substances can and cannot be sold.

You could be prosecuted for dealing in illegal and unlicensed pest control products and your stocks could be seized.

DDVP is a hazardous organophosphate. It has been banned from UK general sale since 2002 and from professional products since 2007.

In 2012 the ban was applied across European Union countries.

### 3. Why is DDVP banned?

The substance is banned due to its potential to damage the human nervous system, and concerns over carcinogenic (cancer causing) properties. It is highly toxic.

### 4. What should I do if my stock is not correct?

Check your insect and pest control products for any mention of **Dichlorvos** or **DDVP** (**dichlorovinyl-dimethylphosphate**). As well as the product shown above it was previously found in insect strips and museum fly killers.

If you find any stop selling it, remove it from your shelves and contact us for further advice. We will ask for details of where you bought the goods from so always keep receipts and invoices.



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## 5. Can I still sell other pest control products?

Any product that claims to be a pesticide or insecticidal (i.e. has killing, controlling, deterring effects) will require a licence and prescribed labelling. Make sure you only stock products displaying such prescribed information and the licence details.

You should avoid buying goods from people who call into your shop uninvited. Only source your stock from traceable established businesses that provide you with invoices and receipts.

Be especially wary of buying any such products originating from outside the UK or Europe.

## 6. Other banned products to look out for

We have also found mothballs containing the banned substance **Naphthalene** on sale in the area and an illegally imported type of **Baygon** flyspray which was not manufactured for sale in the EU.

Note also that **Creosote** and coal tar creosote wood preservatives are also banned from sale to the general public.

### Examples of other banned pest control products found



## 7. Poisons licensing from home users – non medicinal poisons

If you are selling certain products, like high strength cleaners, bleaching products, drain unblockers and paint strippers, they could contain chemicals or ingredients which can be used for the illicit manufacture of explosives or to cause harm. Anyone wishing to buy these who is not a trade professional must have an EPP licence and traders must check it. For further information see [Link to the GOV.UK pages](#) on licensing for home users of poisons and explosive precursors

## 8. Further information

If you require further assistance on these requirements, or would like additional information leaflets, please email us via [tradingstandards@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@southwark.gov.uk) or call the council's contact centre.

For more detailed advice on pesticides and biocides visit the HSE website at [Link to the HSE website](#)