

Pesticides: Who Makes the Call?

Pesticide Registration At-A-Glance

Who is responsible for the safety of pesticides?

Over 350 EPA non-politically appointed employee scientists focus full-time on regulating pesticides. Occasionally, other experts are recruited through the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Scientific Advisory Panel to provide additional feedback and oversight on technical issues.

How long is EPA's evaluation process?

Approval of a new pesticide takes two years or more. (This doesn't include the average 11 years of additional time it takes to get a pesticide from the lab to EPA for review.)

Is the process transparent?

The public can submit comments on pending rules, notices and other actions on [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) and view information related to EPA regulations, such as Federal Register notices, public comments, and background documentation about rulemakings on EPA's Docket Center accessible through [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)

Is the review thorough & exhaustive?

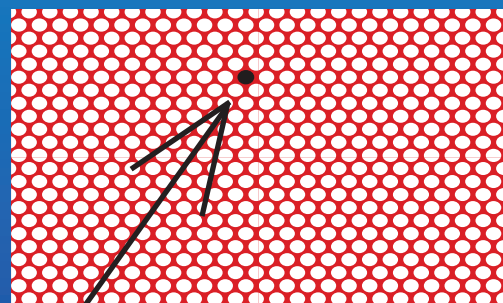
Yes. EPA's review considers how a pesticide might cause harm (hazard), at what levels (dose-response); and the possibility that someone or something is exposed to the pesticide (exposure).

Does this process change with each new Administration?

Changes in Administration have little effect on how pesticides are reviewed and registered. Despite who holds office, EPA is obligated by law to uphold FIFRA and other existing pesticide laws that have been approved by Congress. Sometimes, as regulatory science progresses, EPA does make changes to specific parts of their dose-response or exposure assessment, but these changes are slow because of high time investment and opportunity for public participation.

This strict regulatory process helps ensure that pesticide discoveries are not pursued if they cannot meet the high safety standards for approval.

- This is the primary reason only about **one in 10,000 discoveries** will make the long (more than 11 years) and costly journey from the lab to the farmer's field.
- To put this into perspective, **a discovery made today would likely not be available to farmers until 2030.**



That's the one!
(graphic for illustrative purposes)



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