



'voice for the BC landscape horticulture industry'

Best Management Practices - Procedures for responsibly operating during COVID-19

Landscapers on job sites are highly visible to the public and will become even more visible as other operations wind down. Should landscaping be deemed an essential service, it is critical that operations align with the safety protocols of COVID-19, as mandated by Public Health Officers.

The top priority is the **safety** of staff, clients and the community. Landscapers will continue to operate safely and effectively, and keep staff and clients informed during this ever-changing situation. Landscapers are committed to providing the same quality, service, and knowledge that you have come to expect.

Landscapers work to maintain healthy gardens and the surrounding environment while providing mental health benefits for communities and sustainable jobs. A healthy landscape contributes to mental health benefits. When lawns become long and overgrown, they become fire hazards, may attract pests or vermin, and have negative affects on the mental well-being of residents. Unmaintained properties or residences may also experience an increase in crime, such as burglaries, further decreasing neighborhood safety and morale.

As COVID-19 continues to evolve daily, it is imperative that landscapers implement the COVID-19 distancing and sanitization procedures that are outlined in the following best management practices.

This document will be updated as new information becomes available, however, you must follow all Public Health Officer (PHO) orders. This is not a legal document. Please visit <https://bclna.com/covid-19-news-update/> for more resources. [Click here](#) to sign up for the BCLNA COVID-19 update and quote 'COVID-19 Update Subscription' in the subject line.



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The following Best Management Practices are recommendations to assist BC landscapers with keeping their staff, clients and the public safe while continuing operations. These practices are a compilation of resources of Canadian and British Columbian government websites.

General Health

- Emphasize the importance of increased personal hygiene, such as handwashing
- If staff are feeling unwell or displaying even mild symptoms of COVID-19, they must stay home and separate from others
- Post notes and posters in trucks, shops and offices to remind staff of current practices
- Employers should encourage staff to be honest and maintain a clear line of communication about health and safety in the workplace – this includes mental health
- Increase communication to staff and clients about the measures you are taking for increased safety
- Communicate and follow all government issued updates, information and orders

On the Job

- **Maintain a 2-meter (6 foot) distance from all coworkers/staff, public and clients**
- Only one crew member in a work truck – encourage employees to drive to sites in their own vehicles. Limit staff that can't drive to one jobsite/day
- Stagger staff arrival times to work sites to decrease the number of people in one area
- Implement handwashing stations on all sites and/or on trucks
- Hand washing before reporting to work, before and after breaks, and any other time handwashing is appropriate
- No sharing of PPE – everyone must be issued their own set of PPE and clean daily
- All trucks to be equipped with hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes
- Disinfect all equipment at the start and end of each shift, as well as between operators
- Disinfect truck and common areas daily (including door handles & all surfaces touched)
- Disinfect all surfaces crews interact with at client properties on arrival and departure (gate handles, faucets, handrails, etc.)
- Avoid entering client's houses, no client washroom use
- Adjust all meetings to be either virtual or held outdoors
- Clean all office areas and frequently touched surfaces regularly
- Encourage showering as soon as possible after work and washing work clothes

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