



Message from Southwark Trading Standards

illegal mothball products

Are you selling banned goods?

1. Introduction

Pesticides 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.

Trading Standards have recently found large quantities of mothballs on sale in the borough containing a banned substance called **Naphthalene**. This leaflet explains more about the issue.

2. Ban on Naphthalene mothballs

The traditional active ingredient for mothballs was Naphthalene but due to serious concerns over its safety it has been prohibited for use in pesticides since 2008. This ban applies across all countries in the European Union and the UK - so it is illegal to supply Naphthalene mothballs.

Examples of products labelled as containing Naphthalene



3. Why is Naphthalene banned?

The substance is banned due to its toxicity to humans, especially children, and its carcinogenic (cancer causing) properties. It is also highly flammable.

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

Stop selling it and contact us for further advice. We will ask for details of where you bought the goods from so it is always advisable to keep receipts and invoices.

5. Can I still sell other mothballs?

If you wish to stock mothballs look on the label to see what the active ingredient is. Some manufacturers have replaced naphthalene with natural products to protect clothes from moths but not to kill them. Any product that claims to have insecticidal properties (i.e. killing them) will require a licence and prescribed labelling under biocidal products regulations

You should always avoid buying goods from people who call into your shop uninvited. Only source stock from traceable established businesses.

6. Further information

If you require further assistance on these requirements, or would like additional information leaflets, please contact us at the address given or visit www.southwark.gov.uk/tradingstandards.

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

For free business advice on what you can and cannot sell contact Southwark Trading Standards.