

Six Steps to Safer Pesticides Use

- Read the label FIRST and follow directions carefully
- Don't apply pesticides outdoors on windy days
- Avoid inhaling pesticides or spilling them on your skin or on the ground
- Wash thoroughly with soap and water after using a pesticide and wash your clothing separately from the family wash
- **Never transfer a pesticide or other poison into a container, such as a soft drink bottle, that would attract children.** It is illegal to do so and extremely dangerous. Always keep children and pets away from pesticides, application equipment, treated areas, and used bottles or cans.
- Dispose of all empty containers as directed on the label.

For more Pesticides Safety Tips, write, Public Information Center, (PM-215) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C. 20460

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of
Public Affairs (A-107)
Washington, D.C. 20460

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use
\$300

Postage and Fees Paid
Environmental Protection
Agency
EPA-335
Third Class Bulk



Environmental Protection
Agency

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Pesticides . . .

Read the Label First

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The use of pesticide products on farms, in the home and garden, and in commercial establishments has brought many benefits to all of us. Besides controlling nuisance pests such as flies, roaches, and other insects which can make our lives miserable, pesticides perform a much more vital role in our economy and our lives. Their use on farms, ranches, and orchards is largely responsible for the abundant production of food and fiber which we enjoy in this country today.

In addition, pesticides have brought under control many insect-carried diseases such as malaria, typhus, and yellow fever, thus saving millions of lives around the world.

Pesticides, used properly and with restraint, improve the quality of our lives enormously.

But used indiscriminately, or carelessly, pesticides may become dangerous poisons, not only to those people who actually use them but also to others who may be accidentally exposed. They may harm neighbors, children, farm workers, as well as livestock and wildlife. Beneficial insects may be injured or destroyed needlessly.

Protecting man and the environment from the potential hazards of pesticides is the responsibility of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A major part of this responsibility involves registration of all pesticide products marketed in the United States. With their application for registration, manufacturers are required to submit data which shows that the product, when used as directed, will be effective against the pests listed on the label and will not cause unreasonable adverse effects to man, animals, or crops, or the environment. This information is utilized to construct label statements which warn pesticide users of potential hazards and give precise directions on how to apply the pesticide. EPA also requires that certain statements appear on all product labels and EPA reviews all labels for accuracy before approving the pesticides for public sale. It is against Federal law to use any pesticide in a manner inconsistent with label directions.

By reading and following all label directions, the homeowner, farmer, or professional pest control operator can be assured that the product he is using should do the job required with the least danger to himself and others.

Protect Your Family, Yourself, and the Environment; READ THE LABEL BEFORE YOU BUY OR USE ANY PESTICIDE!

Directions for use: Before you buy any pesticide, make sure the product is labeled for use against the pest(s) you are trying to control. Read all label directions thoroughly before you open the container. Use only the amounts recommended, at the time and under the conditions specified, and for the purpose listed. (Don't think that twice the dosage will do twice the job; it won't. You may harm yourself or whatever you are trying to protect. It is also a violation of Federal law.)

Precautions: Read the precautions carefully. The most toxic products will be labeled DANGER-POISON. The word WARNING on the label means the product is less toxic, but extreme care must be exercised in its use. The word CAUTION will appear on those products which are least harmful when used as directed. Pay particular attention to warnings about keeping children and pets out of treated areas and about special clothing that should be worn when using certain chemicals.

First Aid Instructions: Know what to do if someone is accidentally poisoned by a pesticide. Check the label for Statement of Practical Treatment. This information will give instructions for immediate action. Then, ALWAYS call or get to a doctor or hospital right away. Be sure to take the pesticide label with you. The label will help your doctor prescribe treatment. Write the name of your doctor or local poison control center here and keep it handy.

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6 Classification Statement: After October 21, 1977, all pesticide products will be classified for either "general" or "restricted" use. Restricted use pesticides are highly toxic or require special knowledge or equipment for application and, therefore, will generally not be available for sale to the homeowner. Look for the

statement "General Classification" on the label at the beginning of the directions for use to ensure that the pesticide is classified for use by the general public. Remember: By reading and following all label directions and warnings before you buy or use any pesticide, you can protect yourself, your family, and the environment from serious accidents.

Storage and Disposal: Read and follow all directions for storage and disposal of pesticide products carefully. Keep all pesticides out of the reach of children, preferably under lock and key.