



# Pesticide Safety

## *Pesticides*

A pesticide (commonly called bug killer) is any chemical used to destroy, prevent, or control pests.

Pesticides used in and around the home:

Herbicides: weed killers

Fungicides: fungi killers

Rodenticides: rat and mice killers

Insecticides: insect killers

Pesticides are also used in schools, parks, and other public places. When used in the right way, pesticides can be helpful; however, they can be very harmful if they are used in the wrong way.

**IN A POISONING  
EMERGENCY, CALL  
24-HOURS A DAY,  
7 DAYS A WEEK:**

**1-800-222-1222**

**Teletype for the  
deaf and hearing  
Impaired only:  
TDD 404-616-9287**

## *Common Pesticides*

Be aware of these pesticides found in and around your home:

- Ant and roach sprays and baits
- Insect sprays
- Insect repellents
- Rat and mice poisons
- Mothballs
- Flea and tick sprays and powders
- Some weed and insect killers
- Some pet collars

Legally, all pesticide labels must include: product name, manufacture name, ingredients, type of product, recommendations for specific use, directions for use, precautions, first-aid instructions, storage and disposal information.

## *Applying Pesticides*

- Always read the label before using and follow the directions carefully.
- Before treating an area, remove any toys, food, furniture, and dishes. Wait until the treated area is dry before putting the items back.
- Do not place insect or rodent baits where your children or pets can get to them.
- Always clean up any spills right away.

## *Buying & Storing Pesticides*

Pesticides can come in many different forms: liquids, sprays, dusts, grains, or baits. Try to get the form that best suits your needs.

When buying a pesticide, read the label and buy only the amount that you will need so you will not have any left over.

Store all pesticides in a locked cabinet, out of the reach and sight of children and pets. Never store them in the same area with food, medicine, or cleaning products. Always keep pesticides in their original containers and never remove the label.

- Wash your hands and clothing after using pesticides.
- If you must mix or dilute chemicals, do so in an open area or outdoors. Protect your skin and eyes and keep your children and pets away.
- If you are using a spray, apply only to areas needing treatment. Never spray or dust outdoors on a windy day.
- Protect your body with gloves, goggles, mask, closed shoes, and protective clothing.

## *Clean up and Disposal of Pesticides*

After using a pesticide:

- Be aware that empty pesticide cans and bottles can be as unsafe as full ones because of the residue left in them.
- Clean any tools used and safely dispose of all containers.
- Read the label for instructions on proper disposal. It is the law to follow the label instructions.
- Never pour unused amounts of pesticide down the drain.
- Wash all your body parts exposed to the pesticide with soap and water.
- Wash clothing right away.

For more information on pesticide safety contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) or contact your local county extension agent.



## *Know What To Do In A Poison Emergency*

- Keep the phone number for the Poison Center on or near your phones.
- If you suspect that someone has been poisoned, call the Poison Center right away. DO NOT wait for symptoms to occur.

*If April showers bring May flowers, what do June, July, and August bring?*

## ***Pesticide Poisonings***

Pesticides

**Tips for handling pesticides:**

drinking the pesticide, or by absorption through the skin. When using pesticides, be sure to:

Pesticides are not "safe". All are toxic to something. Pesticides can enter the body by inhaling the fumes, eating or

- Take time to read the **ENTIRE** label, even if you have used it before!
- Follow directions carefully - don't think that twice the dosage will do twice the job - **IT WON'T!!**
- Mix the pesticide outdoors, or in a well-ventilated area.
- Keep children and pets away from the area where you mix or apply pesticides.
- Keep pesticides in containers that clearly identify the contents.
- Wear the protective clothing the label suggests, washing it separately afterwards.
- Be sure to shower immediately after the application
- Never place rodent or insect baits where small children or pets can reach them.
- Before applying pesticides (indoors or outdoors), remove children, their toys as well as pets from the area, and keep them away until the pesticide has dried or longer if directed by the label.
- Keep the telephone number of your Poison Control Center near your telephone (1.800.222.1222)

