

Safe Storage and Disposal of Pesticides

Reduce your storage needs by only buying the amount of pesticide you need. Then follow the storage directions on the pesticide label.

Always leave pesticides in their original container, clearly labeled, and store them out of the reach of children and pets — preferably out of the house in a well-ventilated utility area or garden shed.

Do not pour leftover pesticides down the drain, into the toilet, or into a street sewer. Try to use up extra pesticides or give them to your neighbors.

Check with your local solid waste management authority, environmental agency, or health department to find out whether your community has a program for getting rid of unwanted, leftover pesticides. These authorities can also inform you of any local requirements for pesticide waste disposal.

Do not re-use pesticide containers for other purposes.

Pesticide Emergencies

If someone has been poisoned by a pesticide and is unconscious, having trouble breathing, or having convulsions, **ACT QUICKLY!**

Give necessary first aid (e.g., CPR) and call 911 or your local emergency service. ***If possible, have someone else call while you give first aid.***

If the person is awake or conscious, not having trouble breathing, and not having convulsions - read the pesticide label for first aid instruction. Then call a doctor, poison control center, local emergency service (e.g., 911), or the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network (toll free: 1-800-858-7378).

Then give first aid according to their recommendations.



*Kids

Pest Control and Pesticide Safety

“Pests” are species that we don’t want in or around our homes, such as flies, mice, rats, cockroaches, fleas, silverfish, mold and mildew. Like all living things, pests live and reproduce where they can find shelter and supplies of food and water.

Know Your Enemy

To control pests, you have to know which species you are dealing with, what they eat, where they live, and the kind of shelter they require throughout their life cycle. You can’t catch a rat in a mousetrap.

WARNING: Many parts of the United States have problems with hantavirus, a virus that can be fatal to humans. Hanta is carried by deer mice and possibly other rodents, as well.



Integrated Pest Management

When we discourage pests by poisoning their food, water, or shelter, we run the risk of poisoning ourselves. Children are at more risk from pesticide exposure than adults because their nervous systems and organs are still developing rapidly and they eat more food in proportion to their body weight. To reduce unnecessary pesticide use, the United States Environmental Protection Agency recommends using **Integrated Pest Management (IPM)**.

IPM Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the use of all available methods to control pests, possibly including, but not limited to, the careful use of pesticides. It begins with proper identification of pest species and knowledge of their activities to select appropriate control methods. Non-chemical pest controls are used before resorting to pesticides. If a pesticide must be used, the IPM approach is to use the least toxic product that will do the job, use as little of it as possible, and use it when and where it will be the most effective.

IPM can be used to control pests both indoors and outdoors.

An indoor IPM program may include:

Closing the openings that allow pests to enter the living area and removing their hiding places

Removing sources of food and water by using good sanitation practices, sealing food and garbage containers and repairing water drips and leaks.

Using non-chemical controls such as flypaper and traps that have been selected, baited and placed correctly for the pest species.

If chemical pesticides must be used, planning the timing, location, type of pesticide, and application method to minimize the risk to you and your children.

Outdoor pest control strategies may include:

Selecting species of plants that are suited to your local climate and soil conditions.

Removing or destroying pest hiding places and breeding sites.

Developing healthy soil to strengthen your plants' natural resistance to all pests.

Monitoring the condition of your plants and deciding how much pest damage is acceptable before using pesticides.

Encouraging natural controls such as bats, ladybugs, and insect-eating birds.

Applying pesticides only when and where they are needed, and protecting yourself and your children during and after the application.

Pest control contractors often encourage a regular schedule of pesticide applications. This is handy for humans and their business needs, but it's not a good way to limit pesticide use.

Pesticides as a Last Resort

If a combination of non-chemical strategies can't keep pest populations at an acceptable level, the next step is to use the least toxic pesticide that will be effective, and use it at a time and location that will have the strongest effect on the pest population.

As you consider using a pesticide, learn about its safety, specificity for the species you are concerned about (broad-spectrum treatments may kill beneficial organisms that help keep pests in check), and effectiveness (kill rate). Look for the signal word, **Danger**, **Warning**, or **Caution**—on the label.

Products labeled **Caution** are the least toxic, while those labeled **Danger** are the most poisonous or irritating. Products labeled **Danger - Poison** should only be used by licensed professionals.

The form in which the pesticide is delivered is also important. Sprays are difficult to control. Solid baits, gels, and powders can be placed in locations that are out of reach of children and pets; this approach is generally safer than spraying.

If you think someone in your family may be highly sensitive to pesticides, discuss the problem with your doctor and find out whether there is a safe way to test this possibility BEFORE applying pesticides in or around your home.

Use Pesticides Safely

- ② All pesticide containers are labeled with important directions and safety precautions. Be sure that you or your pest control contractor follow those directions **carefully**.
- ② Use any pesticide only for the purpose and in the amount recommended on the label.
- ② Wear whatever protective clothing is recommended on the label. Don't smoke or eat while using pesticides.
- ② Protect food and food dishes by removing them or covering them with plastic.
- ② Remove yourselves from the house during and after the pesticide application.
- ② Ventilate the house by opening windows and using exhaust fans