

What you need to know about...



Reading a Pesticide Label

Getting help

If you think somebody has symptoms of pesticide exposure, act now!

Call the Oregon Poison Center Hotline at 1-800-222-1222.

Help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For non-emergency information on pesticides, call the National Pesticide Information Center at 1-800-858-7378. Help is available between 6:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. PT, 7 days a week. Or visit www.npic.orst.edu.

Brochure produced by Oregon Department of Human Services in partnership with Oregon Department of Agriculture using material adapted with permission from the Pesticide Education Program at The Pennsylvania State University.

What other information can be found on the label?

Brand name

Different names are used by different manufacturers even though their products contain the same active ingredients. The brand name (or trade or product name) is a unique name used to advertise the product.

Product type

Listed under the brand name, this indicates in general terms what the product claims to control. Here are two examples:

- Herbicide for the control of woody brush and weeds, and
- Insecticide for control of certain insects on fruits, nuts, and ornamentals.

EPA registration number

Indicates that the pesticide product has been registered and its label was approved for sale by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

EPA establishment number

Identifies the facility that produced the product.

Manufacturer name and address

Provides the manufacturer's contact information in case you want more information about the product, such as an MSDS that provides detailed toxicity information, chemical properties, and precautions needed for emergency personnel.

Ingredient statement

Provides the common and/or chemical name, amount of each active ingredient and the total amount of inert ingredients in the container.

Active ingredient

The chemical(s) responsible for controlling the pest. Individually listed on the label by common name and/or chemical name and percentage in the product.

Chemical name

The complex name identifying the chemical components and structure of a chemical.

Common name

A simpler name given by the EPA to a chemical for easier recognition.

Inert/Other ingredients

Not required to be individually listed, but their percent of content must be.

Net contents

The amount a full container holds or weighs.



Why are labels important?

Labels are legal documents that provide directions on how to mix, apply, store and dispose of a pesticide product. The label is the manufacturer's main way to give the user information about the product.



What information does the label contain?

First aid or statement of practical treatment

If a person has symptoms of pesticide exposure, ALWAYS call the Oregon Poison Center Hotline (1-800-222-1222) for further medical instructions. This section details what to do if someone is accidentally poisoned by a pesticide. Since the label has specific instructions and information the physician will need, it is important to have the pesticide label available when calling the hotline or when taking someone to the hospital.

Directions for use

It is a violation of federal law to use any pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its labeling. This section tells you how to properly use a product to get the best results without harming yourself, others and the environment.

The label's directions for use will tell you:

- What pests the product is registered to control;
- Where the product can be used (plants, animals, locations);
- How to apply the product;
- How much product to use;
- How often to apply the product;
- How soon a crop can be used or eaten after an application; and
- When people and animals can re-enter a treated area after application.

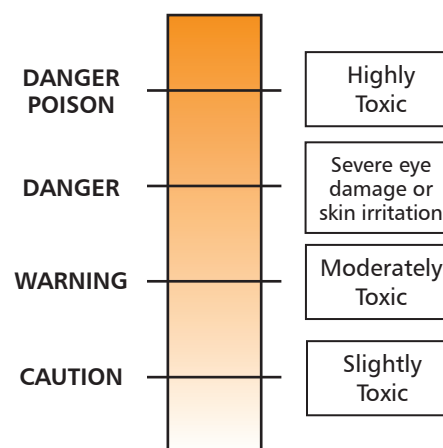
Make sure the product is labeled as effective against the pest(s) that you are trying to control. For example, a product claiming to control termites may not work with fleas. Also, make sure the product is only used where (plants, animals, locations) the label indicates. For example, a pesticide labeled for use on a lawn may not be labeled for use in an annual flower bed. Use only the amounts recommended, and follow the directions exactly.

Signal words

Signal words indicate the relative acute toxicity of the product to humans and animals.



UNDERSTAND THE SIGNAL WORDS



The statement, KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN, must also appear above the signal word on the label. If two chemicals will control the same pest, signal words can help you choose the least toxic chemical to control the pest.

DANGER — POISON — Highly toxic by any route of entry into the body. *Peligro*, the Spanish word for danger, must also appear on the label.

DANGER — Can cause severe eye damage or skin irritation.

WARNING — Moderately toxic either orally (by mouth), dermally (through skin), or through inhalation; causes moderate eye or skin irritation. *Aviso*, the Spanish word for warning, must also appear on the label.

CAUTION — Slightly toxic either orally, dermally or through inhalation; causes slight eye or skin irritation.

Precautionary statements

Information about possible hazards. Additional information can be found in the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). These are available on the Internet or from the manufacturer.

Hazards to humans and domestic animals

Describes the potential hazards to people and pets, and actions you can take to reduce those hazards. These statements may also provide information on protecting children and pets.

Environmental hazards

Describes the product's potential to harm wildlife, fish, endangered plants and animals, wetlands, or water.

Physical and chemical hazards

Describes any special fire, explosion, or chemical hazards the product may pose.

Storage and disposal

Explains how to best store the product and what to do with the unused portion of the product and what to do with the empty container.

Always keep products in original containers, out of the reach of children, and in a locked storage area away from food. Be aware that temperature can affect product quality and environmental safety. Do not put in food or drink containers.

To dispose of the container, triple-rinse, puncture and dispose of it according to your local solid-waste authority's requirements.