

Pesticide Safety - It's Common Sense

What is a pesticide?

The “-cide” part of the word means “kill”. A pesticide is a substance used to kill, repel, or prevent pests and reduce the damage they cause. Pesticides include those used for weeds (herbicides), insects (insecticides), rats & mice (rodenticides), and fungi (fungicides). Common household cleaners used to kill bacteria are also pesticides.

What is a pesticide label & why is it important?

A pesticide label is all the information printed on or attached to a pesticide container. The label tells you where to use the pesticide, how to use it safely, and what to do in case of pesticide poisoning. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires all legal pesticides to contain certain categories of information on their labels.

The mock example label in this brochure shows the required information. This information is not arranged in the same order on all pesticide labels, so you may need to look carefully to find all of it. Some labels may be hard to read because of fine print or unfamiliar words. You need to understand all the information, so if you have trouble reading a pesticide label, contact your WVU County Extension office or the product manufacturer.

When do I need to read a pesticide label?

Always read the label before you buy, use, store, or dispose of the product.

If you suspect a pesticide poisoning, call the WV Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222

If the label tells me I can use a pesticide for insects on my roses, can I use it for the same insects in my vegetable garden?

Not unless the label says so. Some pesticides may be inappropriate on edible crops or may harm certain plants.

If the label tells me to use two ounces of the pesticide on 100 square feet of lawn, would my results be twice as good if I used four ounces instead?

No! You must follow the label's directions exactly – it's the law. Too much of a pesticide may harm people, animals, or the environment.



What if I want to find more detailed information about the pesticide?

Contact the product manufacturer or the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC), an EPA-funded information source. NPIC can be reached 7 days a week at 1-800-858-7378 or on the web at <http://npic.orst.edu/>

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**Read the
Label First!**



**WVU SAFETY & HEALTH EXTENSION
CONSUMER PESTICIDE SAFETY
304-293-3096**

Extension Service
West Virginia University

What Does a Pesticide Label Tell You?

Brand name of pesticide.

Where it's used & what type of pest it kills.

Specific pest it controls. Some products, such as this one, can kill several different pests.

Ingredients that are toxic to the pest.

Manufacturer's name & address & phone number to call for more information.

Signal Word tells you how toxic the product is for people:

CAUTION is least toxic, WARNING is more toxic, DANGER is most toxic.

Bugs R Gon

CONTROLS INSECTS ON HOME LAWNs, FLOWERS, VEGETABLES, TREES, AND SHRUBS

Kills aphids, ants, beetles, borers, flies, crickets, caterpillars, whiteflies, loopers, scale, and other listed insects on yard and garden plants

Active Ingredient	Permethrin	2.5%
Other Ingredients		97.5%

Killum-all Chemical Company
Box 99999, Charleston, WV 99999
(999) 999-9999

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

CAUTION
See back panel & booklet for additional precautionary statements

EPA Reg. No. 99999-999
Establishment No. 999-XXX

NET CONTENTS
1 pint/ 473 ml

EPA Registration Number tells you it's a legal pesticide & is also important information to have in an emergency.

Amount of pesticide in this container.

KEEP THE LABEL ON THE CONTAINER!

PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS

Hazards to Humans and Domestic Animals
CAUTION: May be harmful if swallowed or absorbed through skin. Avoid breathing spray mist. Avoid contact with skin, eyes, clothing; wash thoroughly with soap and water after handling. Food utensils such as measuring cups and measuring spoons should not be used for food purposes after use with pesticides. Keep people and pets out of areas being treated and off treated areas until the spray has dried.

FIRST AID

If swallowed: Call a physician or Poison Control Center immediately.
If on skin: Wash promptly with plenty of soap and water; wash contaminated clothing.
If in eyes: Flush with plenty of water for 15 minutes. Call physician if irritation persists.
If inhaled: Remove to fresh air. Get medical attention if breathing is difficult.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

This product is highly toxic to fish. Do not apply directly to water. DO not allow drift and runoff from treated areas to contact water. Do not contaminate water when disposing of equipment washwater. This product is highly toxic to bees. Do not apply product or allow it to drift to areas where bees are present.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

When applying or handling this product, the following protective equipment is required: long-sleeve shirt and long pants, shoes and socks, chemical resistant gloves, protective eyewear. Clothing worn during product application should be laundered separately from family and household laundry.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

It is a violation of Federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.

Mix and apply: For lawns and vegetables, measure the area to be sprayed, calculate square feet by multiplying length by width. For all other applications apply as a thorough cover spray. **For use on specific plants and for specific pests, consult the directions in the enclosed booklet.** Use a clean sprayer. Carefully measure and mix the amount of product and water as directed. Spray as directed, applying when insects first appear. Repeat applications as directed. Flush sprayer with clean water after each use.

STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

Store in a cool, dry place. Do not re-use container. Triple rinse container thoroughly, wrap in newspaper before discarding in trash.

PEEL TO OPEN BOOKLET

CAREFULLY READ ALL DIRECTIONS INSIDE BEFORE USING PRODUCT

How to store the product safely and how to dispose of the empty container.

There may be additional directions in a booklet attached to the container, especially if the product can be used for several different pests or on several different plants. Read ALL the instructions before using the product, and follow them carefully for specific insects and plants.

Potential hazards to people and pets. Precautions during use.

First Aid.

Potential hazards to wildlife and the environment.

Protective clothing to wear while using this product.

THE LABEL IS THE LAW!

How and when to use the product. How to mix and apply it.