

# Plan for pesticide safety!

Care for Your Plants, Family, and Pets

Sometimes people buy and use pesticides. Pesticides are chemicals that get rid of pests. They are poisons. Pesticides may accidentally get into our bodies and make us sick. They can get into our bodies if we touch them, breathe them, or swallow them. Find pesticides in the picture. Underline words that warn you that they are poisons.



## Think Again! Talk with your family:

1. Do lawns and parks really need to be totally weed free?
2. How do some insects help your lawn and plants? Do you really need to get rid of ALL insects?
3. Can you put up with fruits and vegetables that aren't perfect—when they are grown without pesticides?

### Tip for Grown-ups:

Teach your children that pesticides are poisons, something they should never touch or eat. Pesticides are only for grown-ups to use. Lock up all household, lawn, and garden chemicals. Store them in original containers with labels. Remove children, pets, and their toys from any area where pesticides are being applied, indoors or out. For more information about pesticide safety, visit our Web Site at: <http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/Publications/catalog/> and click on "Citizen's Guide to Pest Control and Pesticide Safety" and on "Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Schools" under "General Consumer Publications." You can obtain free copies of EPA publications by calling the National Service Center for Environmental Publications at 1-800-490-9198.



## Tips

### Be safer from pesticides!

- Either take your shoes off at the door or wipe shoes carefully on a rug-type door mat. How would this help?

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- Always store pesticides in their original container. How would this help?

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- Wash fruits and vegetables with water. Scrub them with a brush. Peel them if possible. How would this help?

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