

READING THE PESTICIDE LABEL

1. Ingredients Statement or Active Ingredients

Active ingredients are the chemicals in the pesticide that kill or control the target pest(s).

2. Signal Words

The signal words - Caution, Warning, or Danger - indicate the pesticide's potential for making you sick. The word Caution appears on pesticides that are the least harmful to you. A pesticide with the word Warning is more poisonous than those with a Caution label. Pesticides with the word Danger on the label are very poisonous or irritating. They should be used with extreme care because they can severely burn your skin and eyes.

3. Precautionary Statements

This part describes the protective clothing, such as gloves or goggles, that you should wear when using the pesticide. The section also tells you how to protect children or pets by keeping them away from areas treated with pesticides.

4. Environmental Hazards

This section tells you if the product can cause environmental damage - if it is harmful to wildlife, fish, endangered plants or animal, wetlands, or water.

5. Directions for Use

Make sure that the product is labelled for use against the pest(s) that you are trying to control. For example, products labelled only for termites should not be used to control fleas. Use only the amounts recommended, and follow the directions exactly.

6. First Aid Instructions

The label tells you what to do if someone is accidentally poisoned by the pesticide. Look for this information in the Statement or Practical Treatment section. If you have to call a doctor or take the person to a hospital, remember to take the pesticide label or container with you.

7. Storage and Disposal

Read carefully and follow directions for safe storage and disposal of pesticide products. Always keep products in the original container and out of reach of children, in a locked cabinet or locked garden shed.