



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH
CHEMISTRY, FOOD AND DRUGS DIVISION
PESTICIDES AND TOXIC CHEMICALS CONTROL BOARD**

**PESTICIDES AND THE FARMER
Apply Pesticides Safely
Follow the Label and Use Precautions**

- Make sure the pest you are targeting for control is really causing the problem. Double check the pesticide label to verify the product will control that pest.
- **Choose the right pesticide** and always follow label directions when applying pesticides. The label lists the sites where you can apply the pesticide, what protective clothing must be worn, how to mix the pesticide, and other important information.
- Wear the protective clothing the label requires to minimize exposure during mixing, applying, and cleaning up. Protective clothing and equipment examples: long sleeves, long pants, shoes, rubber gloves, and goggles.
- Mix only the amount you need to do the job. Mix outdoors or in a well-ventilated area.
- Keep children and pets out of the area where pesticides are being mixed or out of application area until spray is dry or dust has settled.
- Calibrate your sprayer so you are certain that you apply the correct amount.
- Never spray or apply dusts outdoors on a windy day.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke when using pesticides. You could easily transfer traces of the pesticide from hand to mouth.
- Use pesticide indoors only if the label specifically states it can be used inside the home. Remove food, dishes, pots and pans from the room before treating kitchen cabinets. Pay close attention to re-entry and ventilation instructions.
- Wash hands well with soap and water after handling pesticides; residues on hands easily transfer to food, children, cigarettes, etc.
- Avoid wearing soft contact lenses when dealing with pesticides, they may trap material.

Wear the Right Clothing

Protect Yourself

- At a **minimum**, wear long pants, long-sleeved shirt, and rubber gloves to reduce your exposure. **Read the label** and wear the listed protective clothing and equipment.
- Do not wash clothing used during pesticide application with family laundry. Wash clothing separately using hot water and a heavy-duty detergent. Line dry clothing.

First Aid

Tips to Know

- Do basic first aid and **get medical help immediately!** Check the label for first aid information.
- If pesticide spills on your **skin**, wash the area with soap and water. Remove and discard contaminated clothing.
- When a pesticide gets into the **eyes**, flush the eye slowly and gently with water for 10 to 15 minutes.
- When someone **inhales** pesticide vapour, move the individual to fresh air. If unconscious, give artificial respiration.
- Give a conscious person water or milk if he or she has swallowed a pesticide. **Read the pesticide label** to find out if you should induce vomiting.

Transporting Pesticides

Prevent Accidents

- Bag pesticides separate from groceries.
- Protect bottles by wrapping them in paper to reduce the chance of breakage if they fall over or crash together.
- Secure containers upright to make sure containers cannot fall or be knocked over.
- Transport in trunk of car, away from people and groceries.

Storing Pesticides

Ensure Human and Pet Safety

- Store product in such a manner as to eliminate access to children and pets. Pets can knock products off shelves. Children can ingest them. Don't stockpile. Reduce storage needs by buying only the amount of pesticide that you will need in the near future or during the current season when the pest is active.
- Store pesticides 4 feet off the ground, preferably in a locked and labeled cabinet. **Follow all storage instructions on the pesticide label.**
- **Do not** put pesticides in soft-drink bottles or other containers. Store them in their original containers with labels that list ingredients, directions for use, and treatment in case of accidental poisoning.
- Apply transparent tape over the label to keep it legible.
- Never store pesticides with food, animal feed or medical supplies. Store flammable liquids far away from an ignition source.
- Keep your pesticide storage area dry and well ventilated.
- Check pesticide containers periodically for leaks, corrosion, breaks, tears, or rust.

Pesticide Spills

Personal Safety First

- Know what is spilled to be aware of your exposure. At a minimum, wear rubber gloves and chemical respirator when cleaning up spills.
- If a spill occurs, clean it up promptly. Do not leave the spill unattended. If help is necessary, send someone else.
- **Don't wash a spill away** - runoff can damage nontarget plants or pollute surface and groundwater. Sprinkle spills with sawdust or sand; sweep the mixture into a plastic garbage bag and dispose of as stated in the "Safe Disposal" section for unusable pesticide product.

Safe Disposal

Pesticides and Pesticide Containers

- Avoid disposal problems! Purchase only what you need.
- Never flush-unused pesticides down the toilet sink or storm drain. Improper disposal can harm aquatic plants and wildlife.
- Do not put **pesticide products** directly into the garbage. Dispose of unused pesticide by using it as the label directs or find someone who will use it.
- **Triple rinse** empty glass, plastic, and metal pesticide containers. Fill empty containers 1/4 full of water, cover tightly, shake, and then add the rinse water to the spray tank; repeat three times. Wrap the empty container in newspaper and dispose of with your household waste or as directed on the label.
- Thoroughly shake or pat paper containers to remove as much pesticide as possible. Use this material. Dispose of paper containers with normal household waste.
- Do not reuse empty pesticide containers.
- Never attempt to burn pesticide containers in the fireplace, wood stove, or burn barrel. Do not put containers in trash compactors.