

HOW TO READ A PESTICIDE LABEL



Read the label of any pesticide to identify the name, ingredients, directions, and potential harmful effects on children and staff. The following is a quick overview of key things to look for on the label:

The precautionary statements describe potential harmful effects to people, animals or the environment.

The directions for use tell you where, when and how to use the pesticide safely. Follow these directions precisely. This section also tells you what kind of pest this product was designed to kill.

The storage and disposal instructions tell you how to store and dispose of leftover pesticides.

The Environmental Protection Agency Registration number ensures that the pesticide has been reviewed by EPA.

The first aid section tells you what to do if the product is swallowed, breathed in (inhaled), or has made contact with the skin or eyes.

The signal words such as **Caution, Warning, Danger, or Danger-Poison** refer to the short-term or acute effects of the active ingredient.

The Restricted Use Pesticide tells you only certified pest management professionals may use this product.

The product or brand name is prominently displayed on the front label. Brand names are different from active ingredients.

The active ingredient is the chemical that kills the pest.

Inert or other ingredients do not directly kill the pests, but instead help the active ingredients work. They may be harmful.

For more information on reading a pesticide label, see the EPA "Read the Label First" website: www.epa.gov/pesticides/label/