



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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Using Pesticides Safely

Wayne S Johnson, Ph.D.: State IPM Specialist
Richard Post: Western Area Horticulture Director & Specialist
William Carlos: Washoe County Horticulture Specialist
M.L. Robinson: Area Extension Horticulture Specialist
Technical Assistant: Erin Post

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Are Pesticides Hazardous?

That's Up To You!

Use Pesticides Safely

Pesticides can harm humans, pets, other animals, birds, fish, insects, and plants if used carelessly. They also can pollute the air, water, and soil. You can reduce these hazards if you use pesticides properly. Read the label and follow the directions precisely.

Before buying any pesticide, make sure you've identified the pest correctly and that you're choosing the right pesticide to control that pest. For help, submit the pest to your local Cooperative Extension office.



Stop! Read the label!

The most important thing you can do before using a pesticide is read the label. It tells you how to use the pesticide, what protective clothing you need, how to protect the environment and what to do if there's an accident.

The label on the container is the law. It is illegal to use a pesticide in a manner that is inconsistent with its label recommendations. If you do not feel comfortable applying pesticides yourself, contact a professional

pest control company. Services they provide include chemical and non-chemical control methods for many commonly found household pests.

Be safe. Read the label!



Never spray wearing shorts, tank tops, and sandals

Pesticides can cause skin rashes and irritate eyes, throat, and lungs. Reduce your exposure to pesticides by wearing protective clothing. Always walk out of and not into the area just sprayed.

At a minimum, wear:

- Long pants
- Long-sleeved shirt
- Rubber gloves
- Water-proof boots
- Hat
- Read the label to see whether you need to wear a respirator, goggles, or other protection.
- Don't wear soft contact lenses when spraying pesticides; they may absorb the pesticide and cause eye irritation.

Protect yourself and others

- During mixing, handle the concentrated product carefully and only when wearing the protective clothing described on the label. Remember, the concentrate is much

more toxic than the diluted spray.

- Mix only the amount of pesticide you need. Mix outdoors in a well-ventilated area, never inside the home, especially the kitchen.
- Keep children and pets out of the area when mixing or spraying pesticides. Comply with the restricted-entry interval (REI) on the label. As a minimum wait 4 hours before entering a treated area, some products require 72 hours.
- Never apply pesticides on a windy day.
- When working with pesticides, wash your hands before eating, drinking, smoking, or using the toilet.



Store pesticides safely

Store pesticides out of reach of children and pets, in a locked place if possible.

Store pesticides away from food, medicine, and feed products.

Store pesticides in their original packaging, never in food or drink containers.

Dispose of pesticides and containers safely

- Don't put unused pesticides directly in the garbage or pour them down the drain. Follow the label directions for disposal of unused pesticides or contact your county health department for instructions. Share unused products with a neighbor who needs to control pests. To dispose of large quantities, call Nevada Department of Agriculture, 1-775-688-1182 ext. 253.

- Liquid pesticides: When you use all of the pesticide in a container, fill the bottle one-third full with water; replace the cap tightly, and shake vigorously. Pour the water into your sprayer, allowing the container to drain for 30 seconds. Repeat at least three times, or until the container is clean. Keep empty containers until your community has a pesticide recycling day, or dispose of them in an approved landfill.



- Pesticide powders and granules: Follow label directions for disposal of containers.
- Don't use empty pesticide containers for other purposes.
- Don't burn pesticide containers in the fireplace, wood stove, or burn barrel. The smoke produced may be toxic. Don't put them in trash compactors.

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Information

For additional information on pesticide products, toxicology, poisoning, and environmental chemistry, call the toll-free number of the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network (NPTN) at Oregon State University:

1-800-858-7378

NPTN operates from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Pacific time, 7 days a week.

Emergencies

In case of an emergency call the Pesticide Accident Hotline (CHEMTREC) at

1-800-424-9300.

Or, in Clark and Nye Counties, call the Rocky Mountain Poison Center at **1-702-446-6179**; outside Clark and Nye Counties, call the Washoe Poison Center at **1-775-982-4129**.

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