What if my apartment manager hires a pest control company?

Even if your apartment manager hires the pest control company, you still have the right to know exactly what pesticide will be applied in your home, when the pesticide will be applied and what precautions you should take when you re-enter. Consider pests, ventilation and food preparation. Ask your apartment manager the questions previously listed. If he or she does not know the answers, call the pest control company and ask the questions yourself.

Who can I contact if I am concerned about pesticides?

The Nevada Department of Agriculture enforces the laws which protect people and the environment from the misuse of pesticides. They immediately investigate complaints of:

- pesticides being misused or misapplied.
- pesticides being applied by people who are not properly licensed or certified.
- pesticides being stored incorrectly.
- pesticides being sold illegally.

If you are concerned about any of these pesticide issues, contact their office. If an emergency is occurring, call the appropriate hotline number.

Emergency Hotlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Hotline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Pesticide Accident Hotline</td>
<td>800-424-9300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC)</td>
<td>800-858-7378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada Department of Agriculture: Elko Office</td>
<td>775-738-8076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada Department of Agriculture: Las Vegas Office</td>
<td>702-486-4690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada Department of Agriculture: Sparks Office</td>
<td>775-353-3600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada Poison Control</td>
<td>800-222-1222</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Websites for More Information

- National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC), http://npic.orst.edu/
- Nevada Department of Agriculture, http://www.agri.state.nv.us
- University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, http://www.unce.unr.edu

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Charles W. Moses, Environmental Scientist, Nevada Department of Agriculture

WARNING!

Using Farm Pesticides for Indoor Pest Control is Dangerous!

Why is using farm pesticides for indoor pest control dangerous?

Using farm pesticides inside a residence is dangerous and against the law. They are not made to be used where people will be directly exposed to them, especially in an enclosed area. When used outdoors, sunlight, rain and microorganisms break down farm pesticides after they have been applied. When farm pesticides are used indoors, even the smallest amount is too much and extremely dangerous to the occupants. They can last for years inside. These pesticides can be harmful to anyone who comes into contact with them during this time. Children and the elderly are especially at risk of being poisoned.

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Fact Sheet FS-00-21
Updated 2010
Is it illegal to use farm pesticides indoors?

Yes! It is against the law to use farm pesticides indoors. All farm pesticides are made TO BE USED ONLY OUTDOORS ACCORDING TO LABEL INSTRUCTIONS. Anyone who uses farm pesticides indoors is misusing them and breaking the law. They could face large fines and even be sent to prison.

What farm pesticides are dangerous when they are used indoors?

ALL farm pesticides are dangerous when they are used indoors. One that is especially dangerous when used indoors for roach control is methyl parathion, or alfalfa insect poison. This product, among other farm uses, is used to kill aphids, caterpillars, weevils, armyworms and other alfalfa pests. Years ago, farmers and their employees didn’t understand the risk of misusing farm poisons indoors. They brought this pesticide and others home and shared them with their neighbors. Recently, there have been cases where farm pesticides were rebottled and sold to unsuspecting families as quick and easy ways to get rid of indoor pests. **Rebottling for indoor use is illegal.**

How do farm pesticides used indoors harm people?

Farm pesticides used indoors can be swallowed, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin from the air or as you touch surfaces sprayed with them. These products dissipate slowly indoors and may persist, creating a health hazard for your family.

The illegal sale of pesticides that are not in their original container is especially dangerous. People, especially children and elderly persons, have died after drinking pesticides sold and stored in containers such as milk and soda bottles. **Never buy or use any pesticide that is not in its original container. Keep all pesticides locked up and out of the reach of children. It’s the law and it makes good sense!**

What are the symptoms of misusing farm pesticides indoors?

When farm pesticides, such as methyl parathion, are improperly used indoors they can cause serious health problems including:

- dizziness
- chest tightness
- confusion
- blurred vision
- rashes
- lack of coordination
- headaches
- breathing difficulties
- death

Are farm pesticides cheaper than pesticides meant for indoor use?

No! Farm pesticides are not a cheap means of indoor pest control! Used indoors, they could create huge medical bills, force you to move out while they are removed, and add possible funeral expenses. In 1996, at least 1,500 people in Louisiana and Mississippi had to leave their homes after a cotton pest poison was used indoors to control roaches. Some homes were torn down because the pesticide could not be sufficiently removed for them to be safe to live in again. **Misuse of farm pesticides indoors could cost you your health or your life, or the life of someone you love, and it is illegal.**

How can I get rid of pests safely?

Start by keeping them out of your home. Seal cracks and small spaces around pipes with caulk. Clean up spills, debris, and trash inside and out. Cleanliness and good sanitation are a must. Safe, inexpensive products that get rid of cockroaches are available at discount, hardware and grocery stores. **Always follow the label directions when using any pesticide.** Don’t use a pesticide unless it has label instructions.

Find out more about safe pest control and ways to prevent pests from invading your home by contacting your local University of Nevada Cooperative Extension office.

If you do not feel comfortable controlling pests yourself, contact a licensed, professional pest control company. They provide chemical and non chemical pest control solutions. See Pest Control Services in the yellow pages of the telephone book. To determine if a company is licensed, contact one of the Nevada Department of Agriculture offices listed in this brochure.

How can I protect my family when my home is treated with pesticides?

Protect your family and your home when a pesticide will be applied by asking questions. Before anyone treats your home with a pesticide, ask:

- What product is being used?
- Will the product is to be used indoors?
- How long should you wait before going back inside your home after it has been treated?
- Should you do anything special to be safe when you go back inside your home? Open up the windows? Wipe off the counter tops? Mop the floors?