

## Read the label

**Parts of a pesticide label**



ACTIVE INGREDIENTS:	
Pyrethrins	0.02%
Piperonyl Butoxide, Technical	0.20%
Clarified Hydrophobic Extract of Neem Oil	0.90%
<b>OTHER INGREDIENTS</b>	<b>98.88%</b>
Total	100.00%

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN  
**CAUTION**  
See Booklet For Additional Precautionary Statements.  
Net Contents 24 FL. OZ. (710 ml)

**Active ingredient**

- Toxic material that kills the pest
- Use to identify the pesticide
- The same active ingredients are often sold under various trade names
- Use it to research toxicity

We may assume that anything available in a home center, nursery or hardware store would be safe, but that could be a big mistake. Nowhere is this more important than when buying and using pesticides. The term “pesticide” covers more than bug killers. Any chemical that kills or damages a pest is a pesticide. That includes fungicides (occasionally called “disease controllers”), rodenticides (rat poison), herbicides (incorrectly labeled “weed killers”) and insecticides.

Manufacturers test these chemicals for safety and efficacy before release. The label on

the container is the result of those tests and provides guidance on correct use. Consumers might not read the label, thinking, “Why waste time? How can this be hazardous if I bought it in a store? Besides, that is impossibly small type!”

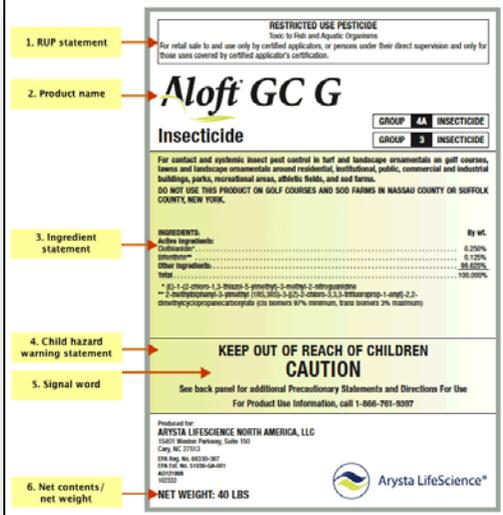
This can have major repercussions. Yes, the label is dense, and not reader-friendly, but spending a few moments reading it can avoid serious health **and legal** risks. A product that controls fungi, weeds or insects can also affect people, pets or wildlife. One who applies it incorrectly is liable for collateral damage it may cause.

On the front label (generally at the bottom), in addition to the name of the product and its manufacturer, is one of three signal words: “caution”, “warning” or “danger”. These signify the compound’s toxicity.

“Caution” indicates that, while the product is definitely a poison, it takes a large amount to be fatal. Despite **that** however, it could still irritate skin or eyes, and could present an environmental hazard, especially if disposed of improperly.

If the label says “Warning” then the contents can be poisonous in smaller amounts. These may also irritate skin or eyes, or be environmentally hazardous.

“Danger” on a label signifies that it is dangerous to use. There are two situations where this word appears. The first is: the compound can cause **irreversible blindness or skin damage**. The other, less commonly available, can be fatal in **extremely** small doses. That label has a skull and crossbones. Any product with “Danger” on the package requires extreme care. The damage that one of these products causes is **permanent**.



**RESTRICTED USE PESTICIDE**  
Toxic to Fish and Aquatic Organisms  
For retail sale to and use only by certified applicators, or persons under their direct supervision and only for those uses covered by certified applicator certification.

**1. RUP statement** →

**2. Product name** → **Aloft GC G**  
**Insecticide**

**GROUP 4A INSECTICIDE**  
**GROUP 12 INSECTICIDE**

**3. Ingredient statement** →

Active ingredients:	By wt.
Chlorfenvinphos	0.20%
Imidacloprid	0.12%
<b>Other ingredients:</b>	<b>99.68%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**4. Child hazard warning statement** → **KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN**

**5. Signal word** → **CAUTION**

See back panel for additional Precautionary Statements and Directions For Use  
For Product Use Information, call 1-866-761-9397

**6. Net contents / net weight** → **NET WEIGHT: 40 LBS**

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The back label information is also important. There is a sign that says something like “open here”. Inside that little package is crucial information for using the pesticide properly. It explains when the product can be used, which may be limited by temperature or wind. It says what type of pest it controls and on what plants. If there are limitations on using the product near water or wildlife, they are there also.

It gives information on proper clothing for safe application. This may sound like overkill, but some pesticides require the applicator to wear chemical resistant gloves and goggles! The label tells not only how to protect yourself, but also how to use it so it does not injure pets or wildlife.

The typeface is inconveniently small, but if it were not, the label would be massive. Who would read it? It is worth the inconvenience, since reading the label can prevent serious injury to the applicator and to the environment.

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