

Handle Pesticides Safely!

PESTICIDES, by their very nature, may be poisonous to people, other animals, and plants. A poisonous or toxic compound becomes dangerous when it is improperly or carelessly used. Poisonous compounds may be used safely when used at concentrations, rates, and with methods of application for which they are intended.

Follow these steps and don't misuse pesticides!

1. Properly identify the pest problem and determine what pesticide to use, if needed. Seek an expert's advice if in doubt.
2. Apply the recommended material according to the label instructions.
3. Store pesticides properly - in their original labeled containers in a locked storage area out of the reach of children, pets, and livestock.
4. Dispose of empty containers promptly, safely, and according to the law.

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS WHEN HANDLING PESTICIDES

- Read the manufacturer's label carefully and completely, paying particular attention to the precautions and application requirements.
- Wear clean protective clothing and equipment as specified on the label. *It's a good idea to always wear gloves.*
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while handling or applying pesticides.
- Do not allow pesticides to contact your skin.
- Wash your hands often. Wash your hands before eating, drinking, or smoking.
- Remove clothing at once and wash skin thoroughly with soap and water if concentrates or highly toxic pesticides are spilled on them.
- Mix pesticides in an open area with adequate ventilation; *never mix pesticides in an enclosed area!*
- Use only recommended materials at recommended rates and by recommended methods of application. *Never use a pesticide for a purpose not specifically stated on the label.*
- Check for and repair leaking sprayer hoses or connections *before* use.
- Notify nearby beekeepers before applying insecticides.
- *Never use your hands to stir pesticides* or to reach into a filled pesticide container to retrieve tools or other items dropped into them.
- *Never spray directly into the wind or directly overhead.*
- *Never allow drift* onto neighboring plants, fields, or especially pasture and forage crops or fields containing produce ready to harvest.
- *Never contaminate* fish ponds, streams, lakes, or other surface waters.
- Wash respirators between operations by washing and replace filters or filter cartridges at intervals recommended by the manufacturer.
- Wash spray equipment after each use to avoid accumulation of chemical residues. When application equipment is not being used, keep it in an area where children and livestock cannot get to it.

- Collect wash water when cleaning up spray equipment by using a catch basin or sump. Use the wash water as diluent for sprays when practical; otherwise, disperse wash water over treated area; *do not simply hose off equipment in the same area time after time!*
- Remove clothes after using pesticides and bathe with plenty of soap and water. *Wash these clothes separately from family laundry* before using again.
- Store pesticides in the original labeled containers and away from food, feed, or medicine, and out of reach of children, pets, and livestock.
- *Never guess at what is in a pesticide container.* If the label has been damaged or removed on household or small package products, discard the entire container with its contents as solid waste (household trash). Unidentified large volumes of pesticide will likely require testing to determine their identity and disposal method.
- Keep records of *all* of your applications.
- Dispose of empty pesticide containers according to SC Dept. of Health and Environmental Control regulations. *You may not burn or bury empty pesticide containers in South Carolina, even if it is so stated on the pesticide label. SCDHEC - (803) 734-5200.*
- Make sure that your *family* and *physician* know the types of pesticides you are using, their toxic effects, and treatment for poisoning by these pesticides, especially if you are using any with a DANGER signal word on them. In addition, make sure your physician has access to drugs that would be needed in an emergency.
- Call a doctor or get the patient to a hospital *immediately* if any symptoms of poisoning occur during or shortly after spraying or dusting. Take the pesticide label or labeled containers.

Read and Follow Label Directions!
