

Pesticide

info

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PESTICIDES

Buy less, lock it away, and dispose with care



California Department of Pesticide Regulation

1001 I Street
P.O. Box 4015
Sacramento, CA 95812-4015
916-445-4300

www.cdpr.ca.gov

BRANCHES

Enforcement
916-324-4100

Northern Regional Office
916-376-8960

Central Regional Office
559-297-3511

Southern Regional Office
714-279-7690

Environmental Monitoring
916-324-4039

Fiscal Operations
916-324-1350

Human Health Assessment
916-445-4233

Information Technology
916-445-2992

Personnel
916-322-4553

**Pest Management
and Licensing**
916-445-3914

**Licensing and Certification
Office**
916-445-4038

Pesticide Registration
916-445-4400

Worker Health and Safety
916-445-4222

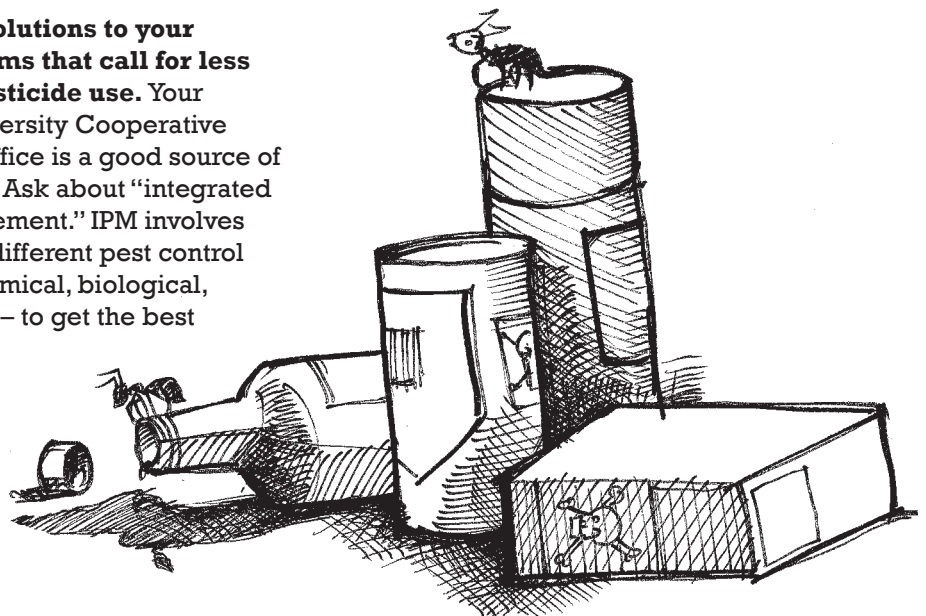
Storing pesticides safely

Improper pesticide storage and disposal can be dangerous to the health of you, your family and pets, and can harm the environment. To be safe, follow these recommendations:

- **Don't stockpile.** Buy only enough pesticide to carry you through the use season. Consider ready-to-use products rather than concentrated solutions. Although they are more expensive per use, these products may be more practical if all you need is a limited amount of pesticide. Pesticides lose effectiveness over time. And you reduce storage problems.
- **Look into solutions to your pest problems that call for less – or no – pesticide use.** Your County University Cooperative Extension office is a good source of information. Ask about “integrated pest management.” IPM involves combining different pest control tactics – chemical, biological, and cultural – to get the best

long-term results with the least disruption to the environment. It focuses on preventing pest problems in the first place so you don't need to use pesticides.

- **Follow all storage instructions** on the pesticide label.
- **Always store pesticides in their original containers.** The label has important information, including ingredients, directions for use, and first aid in case of accidental poisoning. Never transfer pesticides to soft drink bottles or other containers. Children or others can mistake them for something to eat or drink.



A pesticide label has important information, including ingredients, directions for use, and first aid in case of accidental poisoning.

Never transfer pesticides to soft drink bottles or other food containers. Children or others can mistake them for something to eat or drink.

- **Transparent tape applied over labels helps keep them legible.** If you can't tell how old a container is or identify its contents, follow the advice on safe disposal in this handout.
- **Store pesticides out of reach of children and pets.** The best place is in a locked cabinet in a well-ventilated utility area or garden shed. Never store pesticides in cabinets near food, animal feed or medical supplies. Cap and put away pesticides immediately after each use.
- **"Child-resistant" packaging does not mean "child-proof."** You still must store pesticides properly, out of children's reach. Be sure to close containers tightly.
- **Store flammable liquids outside your living area** and away from ignition sources such as a furnace, vehicle, outdoor grill or gas-powered tools. Do not store containers where flooding is possible or in places where they might spill or leak into wells, drains, ground water, or surface water.

Safe disposal

- **The best way to dispose of a small amount of excess pesticide is to use it.** Apply according to directions on the product label. If you cannot use it, ask your neighbors if they can.
- **Do not throw unused pesticides in the trash.** If you can't finish using a pesticide, check with your local solid waste management authority, environmental health department or county agricultural commissioner to find out whether your community has a household hazardous waste collection program for getting rid

of unwanted pesticides. You can also call 800-CLEANUP or go to www.Earth911.com. Call 1-877-378-5463 (1-87-PestLine) for the commissioner's number. You can also go to DPR's Web site, www.cdpr.ca.gov, for the contact information and more pesticide safety tips.

- **Never pour any leftover pesticides product down the sink, into the toilet, down a sewer or street drain or on the ground.** Many municipal water systems are not equipped to remove all pesticide residues from wastewater. If pesticides reach waterways, they can harm fish, plants, and other living things.
- **When empty, you should rinse the container carefully three times**, draining the rinsewater each time back into the sprayer or the container used to mix the pesticide. Then use the rinsewater as a pesticide, following label directions. Replace the cap securely. (Do not puncture or burn a pressurized container like an aerosol – it could explode.) Once you have followed these steps, dispose of the container according to label instructions or according to state and local laws, whichever is stricter. **Never reuse a pesticide container.**



Single copies of this handout are available by calling your County Agricultural Commissioner's office, from DPR at 916-445-3974, or can be downloaded from DPR's Web site, www.cdpr.ca.gov, "Consumer Fact Sheets."

Pesticide Complaint?

1-87PestLine
INFORMATION LINE

1-877-378-5463

