

Pesticide

info

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PESTICIDES



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
559-243-8111

Southern Regional Office
714-279-7690

Environmental Monitoring
916-324-4039

Fiscal Operations
916-324-1350

Information Technology
916-445-4110

Medical Toxicology
916-445-4233

Product Compliance
916-445-4159

Pest Management and Licensing
916-445-3914

Licensing/Certification
916-445-4038

Personnel
916-322-4553

Pesticide Registration
916-445-4400

Worker Health and Safety
916-445-4222

Buy less, lock it away, and dispose with care

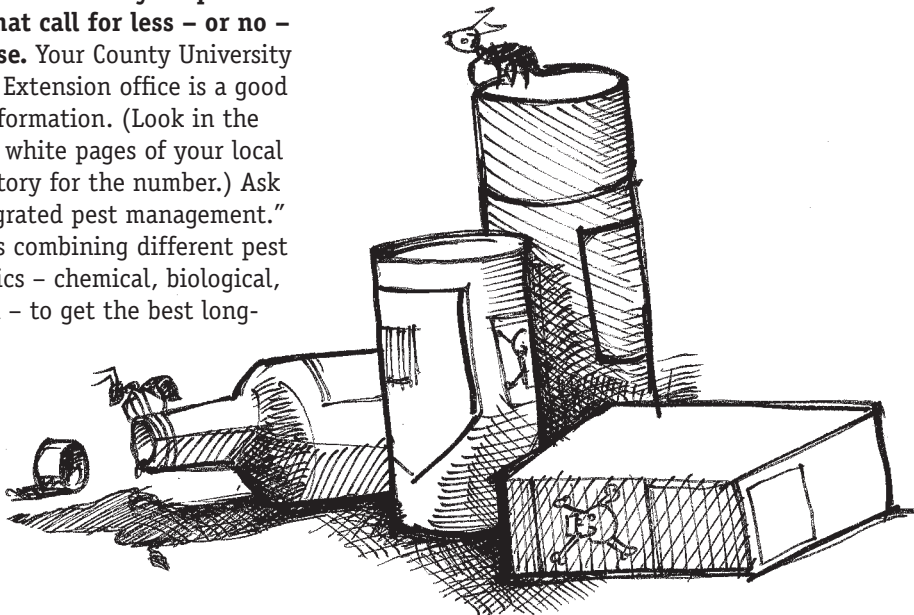
Storing pesticides safely

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. (Look in the government white pages of your local phone directory for the number.) 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.



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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 1-800-CLEANUP or go to www.cleanup.org to get this information. Look for the number of your county agricultural commissioner (who enforces pesticides laws locally) in your white pages, under county government headings, or call 1-877-378-5463 (1-87-PestLine) for the 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.**

Pesticide Complaint?

1-87PestLine
INFORMATION LINE

1-877-378-5463



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."