

Common home pesticides and pesticide-treated products

Disinfectants kill bacteria

Bleach
Ammonia
Kitchen/bathroom cleaners
Toilet bowl cleaners
Disinfectant aerosols
Tub & tile cleaners
Pool & spa cleaners

Fungicides kill fungi and mildew

Rose and flower sprays
Treated seeds
Paint additives that prevent mildew growth

Herbicides kill unwanted plants

Weed killers
Cut-stump treatments
Weed-and-feed lawncare products

Insecticides kill/repel insects, ticks, & mites

Garden dusts
Soap sprays
Mosquito repellents, bug sprays
Ant and roach baits
Flea shampoos, flea and tick collars
Moth balls

Rodenticides kill rats and mice

Mouse and rat bait stations

Wood preservatives protect wood from insects and fungi

Pressure-treated wood

Home PEST seeks to provide homeowners with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about pesticides.

This publication is available from your county Cooperative Extension office.

The Home PEST project was developed by the University of Wisconsin-Extension Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) program.

Any reference to pesticide products are for your convenience and are not an endorsement or criticism of one product over other similar products.

©1997 Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, d/b/a Division of Cooperative Extension of the University of Wisconsin-Extension
Send inquiries regarding permission for any use of this material to:

Director, Cooperative Extension Publications
201 Hiram Smith Hall
1545 Observatory Drive
Madison, WI 53706

An EEO/Affirmative Action employer, the University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements.

HP-1R1-997-10M

#1 - What is a Pesticide?

How many Pesticides do YOU use?

The answer may surprise you!



Home PEST

Home Pesticide Education & Safety Training
University of Wisconsin-Extension

You likely have many questions about pesticides. This *Home PEST* brochure, and those that follow, will help you answer those questions.

What is a pesticide?

A pesticide is any substance used to directly control pests or to prevent or reduce the damage they cause.

A pest is any living thing that competes with us for food, fiber, or space, or that threatens the health of people or domestic animals.

Common pests around the home

- 🐛 Insects and diseases on lawns, gardens, and landscape plants
- 🐌 Slugs and snails
- 🌿 Weeds
- 🐜 Cockroaches, flies, and mosquitoes
- 🐜 Ants that infest structures
- 🍄 Algae and mildew that grow in swimming pools, spas, showers, and water gardens
- 🐛 Clothing moths
- 🐛 Pantry pests
- 🐁 Rats and mice
- 🐕 Fleas and ticks of pets

How to identify a pesticide

All pesticide products can be identified by the presence of an **EPA registration number**. This number is usually located on the front panel of the product.

Before any product can be sold or used as a pesticide, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reviews all necessary data to ensure the product will do what the label says without undue risk to people or the environment.

When these conditions are satisfied, the EPA registers the product and assigns it a registration number.

Kill It

Flower and Vegetable Insect Killer

Kills: aphids, beetles, leafhoppers, stink bugs, loopers, caterpillars, and whiteflies

Active Ingredients	
Pyrethrins	0.1%
Piperonyl Butoxide	2.9%
Inert Ingredients	
Total	97.0%
Total	100.0%

Keep out of reach of children

Caution
See back panel for additional precautionary statements

E.P.A. Reg. No.1234-567

- Now that you know what a pesticide is, are you surprised at how many you can find around your home?
- Identifying pesticides is the first step toward proper handling and use of these products.
- For more information on pests and pesticides, see other *Home PEST* brochures or contact your county Cooperative Extension office.