

Frequently asked questions

Q: Can I apply a pesticide at a rate higher than the rate specified on the label?

A: No. It is against the law to apply a pesticide at a rate higher than that specified on the product label. However, it's not against the law to apply a pesticide at less than the labeled rate. Keep in mind however, that the pesticide manufacturer will not guarantee the product will give you successful control at a lower rate.

Q: If I have an insecticide whose label states it can be used to control aphids on roses can I use it to control aphids on beans?

A: No. You may only apply a product to the site or crops specified on the label. You can use a pesticide to control a **pest** that is not listed on the label as long as the **site** is listed on the label.

Q: Can I mix two pesticides together in the same sprayer?

A: If the label of both products state they may be mixed you may. The label may give specific mixing instructions to ensure a uniform and compatible mixture.

Q: My brand of mosquito repellent states that I shouldn't apply the product directly to my child's skin. Why?

A: Some products may be irritating to the skin or may cause a rash. Others may be absorbed by the skin and cause serious side effects. If the product label specifies that it should not be applied directly to skin, abide by the warning.

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.

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

#5 - Reading Pesticide Labels

What's on a pesticide label?



Home PEST

Home Pesticide Education & Safety Training
University of Wisconsin-Extension

What is a pesticide label?

The pesticide label is the information printed on, attached to, or provided with the pesticide container. It is a legal document.

You should read and follow all label directions:

- Before you buy the product
- Before mixing the pesticide
- Before storing the pesticide
- Before disposing of the container

All pesticide labels contain the same categories of information. However, they do not all follow the same format. It may be hard to find some categories.

Pesticide labels are often difficult to read because of the way the product is packaged and the fine print. There are often unfamiliar words found on the labels. If you have trouble understanding a label, seek help from your county Cooperative Extension office or the product manufacturer.

Store and handle pesticides properly. Pesticide which has dripped down the container may make the label unreadable.

What is the product name?

What type of product is it?

Can the product harm me?

Do I have to follow the label instructions exactly?



Flower and Vegetable Insect Killer
Kills: aphids, beetles, leafhoppers, stink bugs, loopers, caterpillars, and whiteflies

What ingredients are toxic to the pest?

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

Keep out of reach of children

Caution

See back panel for additional precautionary statements

How much product is in this container?

Net contents 8 fl. oz.

How do I know this is a pesticide?

All pesticides have an EPA registration number on the label.

Manufactured for Home PEST Inc.
Madison, WI 99999
(999) 555-1234

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

Who can I call for more information?

Also see Home PEST brochure #2, "Pesticide information sources"

Where do I find first aid information?

Will the product harm other animals or the public?

How toxic is the product to people?

Products with 'Warning' are more toxic than products with 'Caution' and products with 'Danger' are the most toxic.

PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS

HAZARDS TO HUMANS AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS

CAUTION: Harmful if swallowed. Wash hands thoroughly after handling.

STATEMENT OF PRACTICAL TREATMENT:

If swallowed do not induce vomiting. Get medical attention immediately

Note to Physicians: Emergency Information call 1-800-555-4321

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS: This product is extremely toxic to bees. Do not apply if bees are present.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:

This product should only be applied when wearing the following protective clothing and equipment:

- long-sleeved shirt, long pants, shoes and socks
- chemical-resistant gloves
- protective eyewear

Clothing worn during pesticide application should be laundered separately from the family's laundry.

What do I wear when using this product?

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

It is a violation of Federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.

FOR USE ON: Annual flowers or vegetables.

WHEN TO APPLY: Spray before pest infestation is heavy.

HOW TO APPLY: Shake container before using. Hold container about 12 inches from plant being sprayed. Spray until plant is slightly wet.

Note: Holding the container too close to the plant may damage tender foliage.

STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

STORAGE: Keep pesticide in original container out of the reach of children. Do not contaminate food or foodstuffs.

DISPOSAL: Wrap empty containers in several layers of newspaper and discard in trash. Do not reuse or recycle containers. Partially filled containers should be disposed of at an approved waste disposal facility.

What should I do with excess or unneeded product? How do I dispose of the empty container?

Also see Home PEST brochure #4, "Storage and Disposal"

Where and when do I use the product?

Do I mix the product with water to apply?

Where do I store the product?