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What Does A Pesticide Label Say? Michigan State University Michigan State University Extension Community IPM Series MSU Pesticide Education Program Issued July 2000 2 pages

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A pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances used to prevent, destroy, repel pests or reduce the damage pests cause.

Common pesticides include household disinfectants such as bleach and kitchen and bathroom cleaners aimed at bacteria. Other common pesticides include those targeted at insects (insecticides), rats and mice (rodenticides) weeds (herbicides), and fungi (fungicides).

What is a pesticide label?

The pesticide label is the information about the pesticide that is printed or attached to the container. All legal pesticides are required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to contain specific information on the label. The sample label in this brochure shows the required information.

What does a pesticide label say?

The pesticide label tells you where to use the product, how to use it safely, and what to do in case of a pesticide poisoning.

When should I read a pesticide label?

Always read the label before buying, using, and storing and disposing of the product.

Can I use more than the label says or apply an outdoor pesticide inside?

NO! All products registered by EPA have been tested for safety and effectiveness, but ONLY if you follow the directions exactly. The label on the product is the law.

What does the Signal Word mean?

The signal word indicates how toxic (poisonous) the pesticide is to humans. "Caution" is the least toxic. "Warning" slightly more toxic, and "Danger-Poison" the most toxic.

How do I know if I am using a legal pesticide?

All pesticides sold in the U.S. must comply with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Most products are registered directly with the EPA and contain their stamp of approval, an EPA Registration Number, on the label.

Some newer products may contain active ingredients that are considered "minimum risk". These are exempt from EPA registration, but must still comply with minimum EPA standards. These products will not have an EPA number.

Additionally, all pesticides must be sold in the manufacturer's original, unopened container with a complete label. It is illegal to sell pesticides in containers without a complete label.

If you have any doubts that a pesticide is legal, please contact the Pesticide Section of the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) at 1-800-292-3939.

Where can I find more technical information on a specific pesticide?

The National Pesticide Telecommunications Network (NPTN) provides general pesticide information as well as pesticide toxicology and poisoning infomation. NPTN is funded by EPA and can be reached 7 days a week at 1-800-858-7378 or on the web at:

http://ace.orst.edu/info/nptn

If you suspect a pesticide poisoning, contact the MI Poison Control System 1-800-POISON1 (1-800-764-7661)

New, July 2000. Developed by the MSU Pesticide Education Program: B18 Food Safety and Toxicology Building, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824 (http://www.pested.msu.edu).



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What Does A Pesticide Label Say?

How to read the label for important use and safety information



Community IPM Education Series

MSU Pesticide Education Program Extension Bulletin E-2725

Parts of a Pesticide Label

Brand Name First Aid First Aid **BUGSnoMORE** If swallowed: Call a physician or Poison Control Center immediately. Do not induce vomiting. Potential If on skin: Wash with plenty of soap and water. Get medical attention. Type of If in eyes: Flush with plenty of water for 15 minutes. hazards to Garden Insect Spray product If inhaled: Remove to fresh air. people, pets, Precautionary Statements: CAUTION. Harmful if **EPA** EPA Reg. No. 11111 and the swallowed. Do not breathe vapor. Avoid contact with skin; wash Establishment No. 123-XX Registration environment hands and skin thoroughly after use. Avoid contact with eyes; flush Number eyes immediately upon exposure. If poisoning does occur, call a Active ingredients doctor immediately. Protective 25% permethrin Personal Protective Equipment: When applying or clothing 52% petroleum solvent handling this product the following protective equipment is required: 23% long-sleeve shirt and long pants, shoes and socks, eye protection, and to wear Other ingredients Ingredients chemical proof gloves. Controls pests like aphids, mites, slugs, **Directions for Use:** caterpillars, and mealybugs on garden and The Label Specific IT IS A VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW TO USE THIS PRODUCT IN A MANNER INCONSISTENT WITH ITS LABEL. pests ornamental plants. is the Law! Houseplants: Use 2 tablespoons per cup of water. Spray on infested controlled KEEP OUT OF REACH Ornamental trees: Use 3 tablespoons per cup of water. Spray to How to OF CHILDREN drench infested leaves. use the Vegetables: Use on cucumbers, brussel sprouts, kale, beans, peas, Signal product CAUTION corn, potatoes and carrots. 1 tablespoon per gallon of water. Spray on Word infested leaves. Use once every 3 days until pests are gone. Net Contents 8 fl. oz. Storage and Disposal: Amount in Zappo Chemical Company Storage & Store in a cool, dry place. Pesticide wastes are toxic. To dispose of package 123 Main Street, Lansing, MI 48888 container, triple rinse, puncture, and dispose of in a sanitary landfill. Disposal

Name & address of manufacturer