

## USES OF PESTICIDES

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What are pesticides? This term is misused more often than it is used correctly. Speaking before many types of groups very few people can define the word "pesticide" and explain its meaning.

As used today the terms pesticide or pesticide chemicals are the same as an "economic poison" as defined under the USDA Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

Pesticides, therefore, are defined as any substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent, destroy, repel or mitigate any insects, rodents, nematodes, fungi, weeds, or other pests. It also includes substances intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant or desiccant.

Following is a list of Pesticide Types and their uses:

### 1. Insecticides

Insects (beetles, caterpillars, bees, flies, Cockroaches, spiders, mites, ticks, etc., etc.). Broadly used insecticides also include: miticides, insect repellents, insect attractants, activators and mothproofers.

### 2. Invertebrate animal poisons and repellents (animals without backbones)

1. substances used for jellyfish control
2. shipworms attacking docks
3. barnacles and mollusks on piers and ship bottoms
4. snail and slug control.
5. etc.

### 3. Rodenticides

rats, mice, moles, skunks, fish, bird and snake poisons and/or repellents. Fish poisons are commonly used in management operations, skunk poisons or repellents and controlling sea lamprey.

### 4. Fungicides

mildew, molds, slime, etc.

### 5. Nematocides

eelworms, etc.

### 6. Growth regulators

fruit set speed up or reducing plant growth (not to include fertilizers).

### 7. Herbicides

weed killers

### 8. Defoliants

leaf drop materials

### 9. Desiccants

artificial drying agents

### 10. Fumigants

vapor producing (mothballs, etc.)

So you see it's not just DDT that is considered a pesticide. It's hundreds of types of products.

How can you as a homeowner tell which is a pesticide and which isn't. First and always -- read the label. If the label on the product claims to control molds, mildews, viruses, bacteria, germs, or any of the better known pests, you can almost be 100 per cent sure it is a pesticide.

If the product is legally registered and manufactured for use in interstate commerce since 1965, you can positively identify it as a pesticide product. Public Law 305, a 1964 amendment to FIFRA, requires all pesticides that are approved and registered by

the U. S. Department of Agriculture to carry a registration number on the label. This information would appear as "USDA Registration No. 4822-94" or some similar combination of numbers. In this example, the number 4822 identifies the manufacturer, and 94 refers to the particular pesticide product in the manufacturer's line.

See how many pesticide products you can locate even in your home: A hint: Start in the kitchen or bath rather than where you normally would think to look for pesticides.

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