



Pesticide Safety in the Garden

The best way to deal with pest problems in the garden is to prevent them. But, even with good gardening practices pest problems may sometimes develop. Pesticides can be an effective way to control an occasional pest outbreak. Here are some pesticide safety tips to help protect your family, neighbors and pets when using pesticides in the garden.

Some municipalities have bylaws restricting outdoor pesticide use. In Halifax, only pesticides listed on the "Permitted Pesticides" List found at <http://www.halifax.ca/legislation/adminorders/ao23.PDF> can be used without a permit from the municipality. Before selecting or using a pesticide, contact your municipal office to find out about any pesticides bylaws in your area

SELECTING A PEST CONTROL TREATMENT

First, make sure you correctly identify the pest or problem. Garden center staff, garden books or provincial government web sites can help you do this.

Select the least toxic, most specific control for the pest you are trying to control. Ask your garden center staff about insecticidal soaps, boric acid, diatomaceous earth, horticultural oils, lime-sulphur fungicides and other reduced risk products.

Before you buy - read the product label to ensure your pest and the type of plant or area you want to treat is listed there.

Buy just enough pesticide to do the job, or to last for one season at the most.

Consider buying ready-to-use products rather than concentrated solutions that have to be diluted. This makes application easier and reduces storage problems.

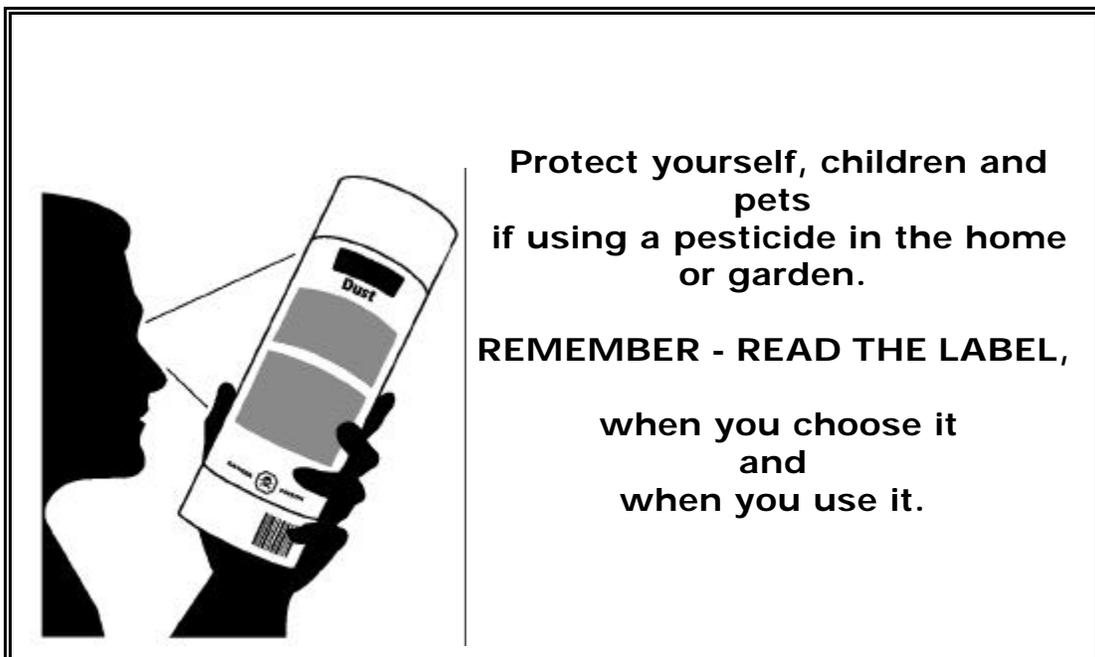
USING PESTICIDES

- Before using a pesticide read the entire label and carefully follow the directions.
- Let your neighbors know in advance that you plan to apply a pesticide so they can close doors and windows or leave the area if they wish.
- Before you apply a pesticide - remove all children's toys, pet food and water bowls from the area to be treated and cover all garden furniture.
- Mix pesticides outdoors using a separate set of measuring utensils kept especially for use in the garden. Never use your kitchen utensils for pesticides.
- Follow the label directions. Don't be tempted to apply extra pesticide. This will not give better or faster control and it may damage your plants.

- Wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, non-leather shoes and rubber or neoprene gloves when mixing and applying pesticides.
- Don't spray on windy days or when the temperature is above 27C
- Don't use pesticide when rain is forecast. Runoff from lawns and gardens can contaminate waterways.
- Keep children and pets out of the treated areas at least until the product is dry (usually 4-6 hours).
- Store pesticides out of reach of children and pets, preferably in a locked cabinet.

DISPOSAL OF PESTICIDES AND CONTAINERS

- Empty plastic containers should be rinsed 3 times before they are thrown out. Use the rinse water in the sprayer when you mix up the last of the pesticide.
- Wrap all empty pesticide containers in several layers of newspaper and dispose of them in the regular household garbage.
- Don't recycle empty pesticide containers or reuse them for anything else.
- If you have pesticides you no longer need offer them to a responsible neighbor or gardening friend who can use them up according to label directions.
- Take unwanted pesticides to your local household hazardous waste depot or community collection day. Contact your municipal office for more information.
- Never dispose of any unwanted pesticide by flushing it down the drain or toilet.



**Protect yourself, children and
pets
if using a pesticide in the home
or garden.**

**REMEMBER - READ THE LABEL,
when you choose it
and
when you use it.**