

Q. What else should you consider when using pesticides?

- A.** You should consider the following:
- Wear proper clothing when mixing and applying pesticides.
 - Never smoke or eat while you mix or apply pesticides.
 - Keep children and pets away from the area where you mix or apply the pesticide.
 - Keep pesticides in their original containers. Never transfer pesticides to other containers such as those for milk or soft drinks.
 - Mix only the amount of pesticide you need for one application to control a particular pest.
 - When you measure pesticides with cups, teaspoons or tablespoons, use level measures. Never use the same cups, teaspoons or tablespoons to prepare or eat food.
 - Only mix pesticides together if the labels permit mixing and provide mixing instructions.

Q. Where can you get more information about pesticide labels?

- A.** Every pesticide product used or sold in New York State must be registered with the USEPA and DEC. Pesticide product labels exist because of State and federal regulation of pesticides. The labels are reviewed for consistency with federal requirements and State-specific environmental and health concerns. Products are reviewed in depth when they represent new potential for exposure to humans or other nontarget organisms. For more information on pesticides registered in the State, visit this DEC website:

www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dshm/pesticid/pesticid.htm

or telephone at 518-402-8768.

Consumer Labeling Initiative

The USEPA Consumer Labeling Initiative, which is voluntary for pesticide manufacturers, is designed to help make pesticide labels easier to read, understand and follow. Starting in 1999, you can anticipate seeing changes to some labels, such as listing inert ingredients, simplifying first aid directions, and placing descriptions of potential health hazards more prominently on the label.

Before using any pesticide,



READ, AND FOLLOW THE LABEL!

Brochures in this series are available from the NYSDEC, Bureau of Pesticides Management, telephone 518-402-8781, Albany, NY, or the DEC regional offices. Visit the NYSDEC website, <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/>

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New York State



**PEST MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SERIES
#3 Pesticide Labels**



Understanding Pesticide Product Labels

New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation
George E. Pataki, Governor Erin M. Crotty, Commissioner

Understanding Pesticide Product Labels

Q. What are examples of pesticides?

A. According to the State Environmental Conservation Law, a pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest, or intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant or desiccant.

Examples of pesticides are: insecticides (to control insects); herbicides (to control weeds); rodenticides (to control mice and rats); repellents (to repel mosquitos); certain household cleansers (to control bacteria); pool products to control bacteria and algae; pet products (to control fleas and ticks); and certain paints and wood preservatives (to control fungus).

Q. Why is it important to read and follow pesticide labels?

A. Pesticide labels are designed to provide information you need to use the product. This includes topics such as mixing and handling the pesticide, protecting yourself when using it, and hazards potentially resulting from improper handling or use. The label is required by law to be on or with the pesticide container; it is a violation of federal law to use the pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its label.

A key piece of information included on every pesticide label is the signal word that tells how poisonous the product is to humans. Signal words are:

- **Danger-Poison** – means highly poisonous (commercial applicator use only).
- **Danger** – means poisonous or corrosive.
- **Warning** – means moderately hazardous.
- **Caution** – means least hazardous.

You must read and follow all label directions when:

- **Buying** the product;
- **Mixing** and **using** the pesticide;
- **Storing** the pesticide; and
- **Disposing** of the unused pesticide and container.

All pesticide labels contain the same categories of information, but may follow different formats or use different terms. The sample label on this page was made up to show you the kinds of information you may find on a pesticide label.



Sample Front Label

Product Name → [Name of Pesticide Product]

List of pests the product targets. → Flower and vegetable insect killer. Kills: aphids, beetles, leafhoppers, stink bugs, loopers, caterpillars, and whiteflies.

Ingredients toxic to pests listed.

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS	
Pyrethrins	0.1%
Piperonyl Butoxide	2.9%
INERT INGREDIENTS	97.0%
Total	100.0%

Signal word. → **KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.**

CAUTION:
See back panel for additional precautionary statements.

Net contents 8 fl. oz.

Manufactured by or for XYZ Pest Co.
Anywhere, NY 88888
999-111-2222

E.P.A. Reg. No. 9876-543

Where to telephone for more information on the product.

Pesticides can be identified by their EPA registration number on the label.



Sample Back Label

PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS

HAZARDS TO HUMANS AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS

CAUTION: Harmful if swallowed. Do not inhale. Causes skin burns.

This product should only be applied when wearing the following:

- 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.

First aid information. → **STATEMENT OF PRACTICAL TREATMENT:**
If swallowed do not induce vomiting. Get medical attention immediately.

Information for physicians. → **NOTE TO PHYSICIANS:** Emergency Information call 1-800-555-4321.

Hazards to the environment. → **ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS:** This product is extremely toxic to bees. Do not apply if bees are present.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

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

Where and when to use this product. → **FOR USE ON:** Annual flowers or vegetables.
When to apply: Spray before pest infestation is heavy.

Directions for mixing and applying the pesticide. → **Application rate:** Mix 2 tablespoons of product in 1 gallon of water. Spray until plant is slightly wet.
HOW TO APPLY: Shake container before using. Hold container about 12 inches from plant being sprayed.
NOTE: Spraying with the container too close to the plant may damage tender foliage.

STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

How to store this product. → **STORAGE:** Keep pesticide in original container out of the reach of children. Do not contaminate food or foodstuffs.

What to do with the containers and unneeded pesticides. → **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.