

# Pesticides: Learning About Labels

*Pesticides [pest (nuisance) + -cide (kill or strike)] control, destroy or repel pests such as weeds, insects, rodents, birds, fungi, germs or other organisms that are annoying, unsightly, harmful to health, or cause loss or damage. When used carefully and properly, they provide many benefits: improve our surroundings, improve our food supply, and protect our health. Pesticides are one of several strategies used in Integrated Pest Management.*

## Washington State University Urban IPM and Pesticide Safety Education Program

The pesticide label provides valuable information about proper handling and use of the pesticide, potential risks the pesticide may pose to humans, animals, plants, and the environment, and instructions on how to minimize or avoid those risks. Every person who applies pesticides has the responsibility to read and follow the label information so no harm results from handling pesticides from the time of purchase through ultimate use or disposal.

Once you are certain of the pest and that you want to use a pesticide, **READ THE LABEL** several times to obtain the results you expect and prevent harm to yourself, water quality and the environment.

### Before You Buy

Read the pesticide label to determine these basics:

- Where the pesticide can and cannot be applied.
- If the pesticide controls the pest or pests.
- If the pesticide can be applied safely and legally under the application conditions.
- Necessary application and safety equipment.
- Amount of pesticide needed for the application (buy only the amount needed).
- Relevant restrictions for use of the pesticide.

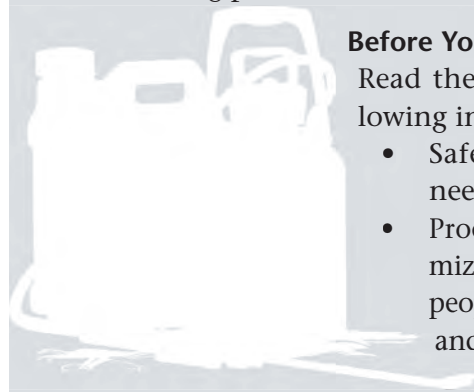


Compare different pesticide labels. Several different products often can control the same pest on the same site. Comparing the labels and product prices helps you select the product that controls the pest and is less hazardous or less expensive.

### Before You Mix

Read the label to determine the following:

- Protective equipment you need to wear.
- Compatibility of the pesticide with other products or additives.
- Amount of the pesticide to use.
- Mixing procedure.



### Before You Apply

Read the label for the following information:

- Safety measures you need to follow.
- Procedures that minimize potential harm to people, animals, plants and the environment.
- How to apply the pesticide.
- When to apply the pesticide (including limitations about re-entering a treated area and the minimum number of days that must elapse after the application before vegetables, fruits, or other crops can be harvested).
- How to launder clothing worn during application.

### Before You Store or Dispose

Read the label to determine:

- Where and how to store the pesticide.
- How to decontaminate and dispose of the pesticide container.
- Where and how to dispose of surplus pesticide.

# What's On A Label?

By law, certain kinds of information must appear on a pesticide label. People who use pesticides have the **LEGAL** responsibility to read, understand and follow the label directions.

- 1. Product name**
- 2. Type of pesticide**—The label must indicate the type of pesticide or what types of pests it controls.
- 3. Ingredient statement**—Pesticide labeling lists active and inert ingredients and the amount of each.
- 4. Signal word**—Indicates the acute toxicity from a single exposure.

**Danger–Poison:** Highly toxic and potentially deadly.

**Danger:** Corrosive, may cause irreversible eye or skin damage.

**Warning:** Moderately toxic, may cause eye or skin irritation.

**Caution:** Mildly toxic, may cause slight eye or skin irritation.

- 5. Keep out of reach of children**—Required on **ALL** pesticide labels.

- 6. Statement of practical treatment**—Lists first aid treatment for accidental exposure.

- 7. Note to physician**—Provides emergency medical personnel with poison treatment information and suggested antidotes. This section often lists emergency phone numbers for additional information.

- 8. Precautionary statements**—Identify potential hazards and recommend ways to minimize or avoid risks.

- 9. Hazards to humans and domestic animals**—Indicates the most likely methods of exposure (mouth, skin, lungs, eyes, etc) which may result in harm, and whether the concern is irritation, corrosiveness or potential illness. May list recommended preventative and protective measures such as personal protective equipment.

- 10. Environmental hazards**—Lists potential hazards to wildlife, birds, fish or the environment—including water quality.

- 11. Physical or chemical hazards**—Lists conditions which could result in additional hazards or reduced effectiveness of the product.

- 12. Directions for use**—Indicates proper methods of application. Generally includes guidelines for approved usage, dosage, mixing, application equipment, timing and possible adverse effects.

- 13. Storage and disposal**—All pesticide labels contain general instructions for proper storage and disposal of the pesticide and container.

**1** **PEST-B-GONE**

**2** **INSECTICIDE AND FUNGICIDE**  
CONTROL INSECTS AND DISEASES ON FLOWERS AND ORNAMENTALS

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS

<b>3</b> Captan (n-trichloromethylthio-4-cyclohexene 1,2-dicarboximide) . . . . .	11.75%
Related Derivatives . . . . .	0.24%
Malathion (0,0-dimethyl dithiophosphate of diethyl mercaptosuccinate) . . . . .	6.18%
Carbaryl (1-naphthyl N-methylcarbamate) . . . . .	12.00%
INERT INGREDIENTS . . . . .	69.83%
Contains Petroleum Distillate	<b>TOTAL 100.00%</b>

SUNSET CHEMICALS, GALVESTON, TX 87777      EPA REG. NO. 010-1133      EPA EST. NO. 010-TX-2

**4** **DANGER**

**5** **KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN**

**6** **STATEMENT OF PRACTICAL TREATMENT**—If in eyes: Flush with plenty of water. Call a physician. If on skin: Wash with plenty of soap & water. Get medical attention if irritation persists. If swallowed: Drink large quantity of milk, egg whites, gelatin solutions, or large quantities of water. Avoid alcohol. If inhaled: Remove victim to fresh air. If not breathing, give artificial respiration, preferably by mouth. Get medical attention.

**7** **NOTE TO PHYSICIAN:** Carbaryl is a modest cholinesterase inhibitor. Atropine is antidotal. Emergency medical information, 1-800-732-2200.

**8** **9** **PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS—**  
**HAZARDS TO HUMANS AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS**—**DANGER**—Causes irreversible eye damage. Harmful if swallowed. May cause allergic skin reactions. Do not get in eyes. Wear goggles or face shield when handling. Avoid contact with skin and clothing. Wear chemical resistant gloves. Also wear long pants and long-sleeved shirt and apply with the wind to your back. Wash nondisposable gloves thoroughly with soap and water before removing. Clothing worn while handling this product must be laundered separately from other clothing before reusing.

**10** **ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS**—This pesticide is toxic to fish, aquatic invertebrates, and aquatic life stages of amphibians. Do not apply directly into water. Drift and runoff may be hazardous to aquatic organisms in areas near the application site. Do not clean equipment or dispose of equipment wash waters in a manner that will contaminate water resources. This product is highly toxic to bees exposed to direct treatment on blooming crops or weeds. Do not apply this product or allow it to drift to blooming crops or weeds if bees are visiting the treatment area.

**11** **PHYSICAL OR CHEMICAL HAZARDS:** Do not use or store near heat or open flame. Do not store below 32°F.

**12** **DIRECTIONS FOR USE**  
It is a violation of Federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.  
**PEST-B-GONE INSECTICIDE AND FUNGICIDE** is a complete concentrate containing fungicide, aphicide, miticide, scabicide, and spreader-sticker. Easy to use, mixes with water instantly, no plugging nozzles, no messy powders to handle, measure or mix, no pre-mixing or straining necessary. Designed especially for home gardens to protect roses, evergreens and flowers from the ravages of listed insects and diseases.  
**SHAKE PRODUCT THOROUGHLY BEFORE USING.** Contains micron particles which settle upon standing and require reblending by agitation. Choose a cool, calm period, preferably early morning or evening. Shake sprayer occasionally or agitate to keep spray particles in suspension during application.  
**ROSES, EVERGREENS, AND FLOWERS**  
**INSECTS:** Aphids, apple maggot, bagworm, black cutworm, bud moth, cherry fruit fly and worm, codling moth, plum curculio, mites, oriental fruit moth, pear slugs, psylla, red banded leafroller, scale (Forbes, Putnam San Jose), and tent caterpillars. **DISEASES:** Bitter rot, black spot, black rot, blossom blight, botrytis blossom end rot, downy mildew, fly speck, frog eye, leaf spot, scab, and sooty blotch.  
**MIX 1.5 TABLESPOONS PER GALLON OF WATER.** Begin applications when insects or disease symptoms first appear or conditions favor their development and repeat at weekly intervals or as necessary to maintain control. Remember, it is easier to prevent damage than to cure it. Therefore a preventive spray schedule is recommended. Do not use if rain is expected shortly after application. Select still periods for application. Select still periods for application (early morning or evening) to reduce waste by blow away and blow back. Spray in early morning or in the evening to avoid direct sunlight. Do not apply through any type of irrigation equipment.

**13** **STORAGE AND DISPOSAL**  
Storage: Keep pesticide in original container. Do not put concentrate or dilute solution into food or drink container. Avoid contamination of feed and foodstuffs. Store in a cool, dry place, preferably in a locked storage area. **PRODUCT DISPOSAL:** Empty container by use. **CONTAINER:** Do not reuse empty jug. Rinse thoroughly before discarding in trash.  
**NOTICE:** Buyer assumes all responsibilities for safety and use not in accordance with directions.  
Net Contents: 1 pint