

## Q. What are examples of pesticides?

**A.** According to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) 7 U.S.C. § 136, the term “pesticide” means (1) any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest, (2) any substance or mixture of substances intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant, and (3) any nitrogen stabilizer.

Some examples of pesticide types and their uses include:

- **Algaecides** — Control algae in lakes, canals, swimming pools, etc.
- **Antimicrobials** — Kills microorganisms (such as bacteria & viruses).
- **Disinfectants/Sanitizers** — Kills or inactivate disease-producing microorganisms on inanimate surfaces.
- **Fungicides** — Kills fungi (including blights, mildews, molds, and rusts).
- **Fumigants** — Produce gas or vapor intended to destroy pests in buildings or soil.
- **Herbicides** — Used to control unwanted plants (weeds). Herbicides may be combined with other materials such as “weed and feed” products.
- **Insecticides** — Kills insects and other arthropods.
- **Nematicides** — Kills nematodes (nonsegmented roundworms) that infect roots of certain crops.
- **Pheromones** — Biochemicals used to disrupt the mating behavior of insects.
- **Repellents** — Repel pests, including insects (such as mosquitoes) and birds.
- **Rodenticides** — Control mice, rats and other rodents.



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

**A.** Products defined as a pesticide must be registered with the EPA, except EPA-defined minimum risk pesticides. WSDA’s regulations require state registration before distribution of all pesticides, including minimum risk pesticides, adjuvants, plant growth regulators, defoliants and desiccants. 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 risk to humans or other non-target organisms.

For more information on pesticides registered in the state, contact the WSDA Pesticide Registration Section at [pestreg@agr.wa.gov](mailto:pestreg@agr.wa.gov).

Searchable registration databases:

- [kellysolutions.com/wa](http://kellysolutions.com/wa)
- [picol.cahnrs.wsu.edu/](http://picol.cahnrs.wsu.edu/)

## 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.

For information on pesticides and regulation, visit the Pesticide Management Division website: [agr.wa.gov/departments/pesticides-and-fertilizers](http://agr.wa.gov/departments/pesticides-and-fertilizers)

For information on pesticides found in Washington water bodies, visit the Natural Resources Assessment Section website: [agr.wa.gov/AgScience](http://agr.wa.gov/AgScience)

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# Understanding Pesticide Product Labels



Washington  
State Department of  
Agriculture

Natural Resources Assessment Section

## 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 safely and effectively. Topics include mixing and handling the pesticide, protecting yourself and others while 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 indicates how poisonous the product is to humans. Signal words are:

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

You must read and follow all label directions when:

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

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

# Understanding Pesticide Product Labels

— sample BACK 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	
Total	97.0 %
	100.0 %

**Signal word**

**CAUTION:**  
See back panel for additional precautionary statements.

Net contents 8 fl. Oz.

**Where to contact for more information on the product**

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

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

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

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

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

**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.

**FOR USE ON:** Annual flowers or vegetables.

**WHEN TO APPLY:** Spray before pest infestation is heavy.

**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

**STORAGE:** Keep pesticide in original container out of the reach of children. Do not contaminate food or foodstuffs.

**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.

Harm the product can cause

Protective clothing to wear during pesticide application. Laundering instructions for that clothing

First aid information

Information for physicians

Hazards to environment

Where and when to use product

Directions for mixing and applying the pesticide

How to store the pesticide

What to do with the container and unneeded pesticide