

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Why Read Labels?



The Consumer Labeling Initiative:
A Government, Industry, & Public Partnership

DIRECTIONS FOR USE: It is a violation of Federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.

FOR HOUSEHOLD USE: SHAKE WELL BEFORE EACH USE. Hold container upright. Do not spray up into air. Apply to surfaces only. Point spray opening toward surface to be sprayed. Spray until surfaces are wet. Repeat treatment as necessary.

STATEMENT OF PRACTICAL TREATMENT: IF SWALLOWED: Call doctor or Poison Control Center immediately.

NOTE TO PHYSICIANS: Gastric lavage is indicated if material was taken internally. (Do not induce vomiting.)

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS:
Permethrin0.05%
2-(1-Methylethoxy).....0.05%
phenol methylcarbamate

INERT INGREDIENTS:99.90%
contains petroleum distillates

- Replace the phrase "Statement of Practical Treatment" with "First Aid."
- Clarify first aid statements.
- Present label information in an easier-to-read format. For example, language is presented in bulleted and boxed formats.

For pesticide information, contact:
The National Pesticide Information Center
1-800-858-7378
<http://npic.orst.edu>

Now It's Even Easier to Read the Label *First!*

Based on extensive consumer research, EPA is working to make consumer product labels even easier to read and understand. New labels:

- Eliminate jargon and overly technical words.

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Why Read Labels?

Injury or illness to a child or household pet is a parent's worst nightmare. Did you know that many household products such as cleaners and pesticides could harm children, pets, or the environment if not used and stored correctly? Consumer product labels contain valuable use instructions and precautions that can help you keep your family, pets, and community safe. By reading the label first you can prevent accidents from occurring.

Labels Tell You:

- How to use a product safely and effectively.
- How to store the product safely.
- How to give first aid.
- Where to call for help or more information.



Reading the Label Saves Money!

Read the Label **First!** to save money. Follow these guidelines to ensure safe, cost-effective use of household products:

- **Buy the Right Product.** Read the label to make sure it's the right product for the job. You'll save money and frustration.
- **Buy the Right Amount for Your Needs.** Buy only what you need and pass the rest on to someone else who can use it. Some products might not be good if stored for long periods of time. A larger size might not be a good value if you can't use it all.
- **Use the Right Amount of Product for the Job.** Labels indicate the correct amount to use. Using more than what's recommended is not better. It wastes the product and the money you've spent. In some cases, using more than the recommended amount can hurt people, pets, and the environment.



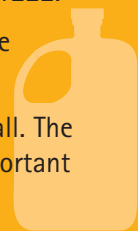
Follow These Tips When Selecting and Using Any Household, Cleaning, or Gardening Product:

- Identify the problem.
- Find the product that solves the problem. All products do not work in every situation. Labels tell you what a product is meant to do and how it should be applied.
- Pay attention to warnings. Warnings and directions tell you how to use products safely and correctly. Follow directions about wearing gloves or protective clothing. Understand when and how to apply the product and when it's safe for people or pets to re-enter treated areas. Note how long to wait before picking fruits and vegetables.
- Use the product the right way. Product labels tell you how to safely use products for best results. Use only the amount indicated on the label. More is not better and can even cause harm. If the label tells you to mix a product in another container, use all the mixture. If you can't use all of it, clearly label the new container for use in the future.
- Store products out of the reach of children and pets. Do not spray or store cleaning or pesticide products near pet food or water dishes. Use childproof locks on low cabinets and make sure that child-resistant caps and covers are in place. Teach children that household products are not toys. In the event of a spill, keep pets and children away from the area until it is thoroughly cleaned up.
- Always keep products in original containers. It's very dangerous to put products in food and beverage containers. Children might think that something in a familiar juice or soda bottle is good to drink. If you throw away the original container, you throw away important information needed in case of an emergency. If there is an accident, you need the information on the original label to help with treatment.
- Prevent harm to the environment. Outdoor lawn and garden products that run into ponds, creeks, or other water supplies can contaminate drinking water and kill fish and birds. Apply products according to label directions to prevent harm to the environment. Never pour lawn and garden products down a drain. If you can't use the entire product, pass it on to someone who can.
- Don't forget about wildlife. Spraying products on a windy day can carry the product into the water supply for wild animals.



It's Important to:

- Check the label for a number to call in an emergency.
- Have the National Poison Control Center phone number handy by the phone: 1-800-222-1222.
- Have your doctor's phone number near the phone.
- Have the product label ready when you call. The label provides those helping you with important information about the product.



- Follow proper instructions for disposal. Most pesticide and insecticide labels say "wrap in paper and place in trash" for both empty and partly filled containers. These instructions will soon be changed to read "call your local solid waste agency for disposal instructions." It's always best to contact your local solid waste agency since many now collect unused pesticides. You also may call 1-800-CLEANUP, a private, national hotline, for information about recycling and waste disposal in your area.

Signal Words

Labels contain signal words—**Caution, Warning, Danger**—that indicate a product's potential for making you sick.

"Caution" appears on products that are the least harmful to you.

"Warning" means a product is more harmful than one with a "Caution" label.

"Danger" means a product is poisonous or corrosive and should be used with extreme care.

