



## 10 STEPS for Responsible Pesticide Use

**1. PRACTICE PREVENTION**

Prevention is your front line of defense of problems that may lead to pest infestation. Standing water, exotic plants, and unhealthy soil are all preventable invitations to unwanted visitors.

**2. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A PEST PROBLEM**

Not every six-legged critter is a pest or every random sprouting plant a weed. Identify what you have before taking action and tolerate some damage in lieu of using chemicals.

**3. TRY NON-TOXIC CONTROL METHODS FIRST**

Explore the numerous alternatives that are readily available.

**4. IF YOU MUST USE A PESTICIDE, USE THE LEAST TOXIC AVAILABLE**

Different pesticides carry different risks to you, your family, and other living things. Read labels noting what organisms can be affected peripherally by the use of a chemical aimed at a specific target. Eliminate pesticide use on lawns or for other strictly aesthetic purposes.

**5. READ THE LABEL, READ THE LABEL, READ THE LABEL**

When you purchase it and every time you pick it up.

**6. USE ONLY THE RECOMMENDED AMOUNT**

More is not better and using less presents problems as well.

**7. PROTECT YOURSELF, OTHERS, AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Use common sense. Notify people of your intentions. Avoid applying pesticides on windy days or near a water source.

**8. KNOW THE SIGNS OF PESTICIDE POISONING**

Read the first aid information on pesticide labels before using. Be alert to possible complications. Call 911 if you suspect someone has been poisoned.

**9. STORE UNUSED PESTICIDES IN LOCKED AREAS IN THEIR ORIGINAL CONTAINERS**

Take every precaution necessary to prevent children from gaining access to pesticide products. Do not transfer chemicals to unmarked containers. Limit your purchases to products you intend on using to prevent a stockpile.

**10. DISCARD OLD, POORLY LABELED, OR DISCONTINUED PESTICIDE PRODUCTS IN A SAFE MANNER**

The drain or drainage ditch is NOT an alternative. Never pour chemicals down the drain or the street. Contact solid/hazardous waste management agencies for disposal guidelines in your area.