



SEASONAL HEALTH ALERT

Questions, contact WAPC by emailing mryuk@wapc.org.

Lawn and Garden Care – Safety Tips

Warmer weather and sunshine brings forth a bounty of new plant life; however, the products used to care for gardens and lawns can contain potentially toxic chemicals. To ensure the safety of your home, children, and pets, here are some products and safety tips to be aware of.

PESTICIDES:

- a pesticide is a substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any type of pest (US EPA). “Pests” include insects, weeds, bacteria, viruses, and more.



Common Pest Controlling Chemicals
Pyrethrins/Pyrethroids
Organic phosphorus compounds: malathion
Carbamates: carbaryl, aldicarb
Bipyridyl: diquat
Glyphosate (Round-Up®)

When used correctly these products are unlikely to be toxic as most products for home use contain a relatively small amount of active ingredients. However, using caution before, during, and after use (including storage) should still be a priority to reduce the risk of injury.

BEFORE USE:

- **Read the label:** The labels contain information about the active ingredients, the potential toxicity, and specific safety measures to be taken.
- **Ventilate if indoors:** If using a pesticide indoors, open windows and doors to allow fumes to escape.

DURING USE:

- **Wear protective clothing:** Protect your skin by wearing gloves and long sleeves, and protect your eyes by wearing safety glasses or sun glasses. If any skin is exposed while applying, wash immediately with soap and water.
- **Do not leave products open or unattended:** When using, replace the caps and store up and out of reach of children.



AFTER USE:

- **Wash your hands:** Wash your hands with soap and water, even if you wore gloves. Wash any other parts of the skin that may have been exposed during use (e.g. lower legs).
- **Change clothing:** Remove all clothing and wash it immediately in a load of its own.
- **Store properly:** Store pesticides in their original containers with child-resistant lids in areas out of reach and out of sight of children and pets. Never transfer pesticides to an unlabeled container!
- **Dispose properly:** Contact your local hazardous waste or waste management program to find the household disposal location nearest you!

LAWN CARE:

- **Gasoline & Oils:** Never store spent oil and gasoline in unlabeled containers. Storage in soda or drink containers can lead to unintentional ingestions and poisonings.
- **Fertilizers:** Treat these products like a pesticide, and follow the instructions above.

For more information, or if you or a family member have been exposed to a potentially dangerous chemical, **call the Washington Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222. All calls are free, confidential, and answered by healthcare professionals.**