



SEASONAL HEALTH ALERT

Lawn & Garden Care

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Contact WAPC at mryuk@wapc.org with questions

Warmer weather and sunshine bring forth a bounty of new plant life, and increased time spent outdoors. 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, be aware of the following products and their safety tips.

Pesticides

When used correctly, pesticides are unlikely to be toxic—most products for home use contain a relatively small amount of active ingredients. However, **using caution before, during, and after use (including storage) is still important to reduce the risk of injury or poisoning.**

Common Pest Controlling Chemicals

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

BEFORE USE:

- **Read the label:** labels contain information about the active ingredients, potential toxicity, and specific safety measures to be taken. The label will additionally identify if a product is ready-to-use or concentrated (i.e., needs to be diluted). Follow the instructions for diluting products closely.
- **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 or sun glasses. If bare skin comes into contact with a pesticide, wash immediately with soap and water.
- **Do not leave products open or unattended:** replace the caps and store up and out of reach of children.

AFTER USE:

- Even if you wore gloves, **wash your hands and any other skin that may have been exposed (e.g., lower legs) with soap and water.**
- **Change clothing:** remove and wash all clothing immediately in a load of its own.
- **Store properly:** store pesticides in their original containers with child-resistant lids. Never transfer pesticides to an unlabeled container. Place containers out of reach and out of sight of children and pets.
- **Dispose properly:** contact your local hazardous waste or waste management program to find your closest household disposal location.

Lawn care

- **Gasoline and oils:** never store spent oil and gasoline in unlabeled containers. Storage in soda or drink containers can lead to unintentional ingestions and poisonings.

If you or a family member have been exposed to a pesticide or other lawn care product, call the Washington Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222