



SEASONAL HEALTH ALERT

Lawn & Garden Care

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Contact WAPC at mryuk@wapc.org with questions

Warmer weather and sunshine brings new plant life and increased time spent outdoors. Some of the products used to care for gardens and lawns can contain potentially toxic chemicals, though, so be aware of the following products and their safety tips.

Pesticides & Fertilizers

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

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 closely for diluting products.
- **Ventilate if 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/fertilizer, wash immediately with soap and water. If a pesticide/fertilizer is splashed in the eyes, flush eyes immediately with lukewarm tap water, then call the poison center at 1-800-222-1222. If possible, have the container on hand when you call to help our specialists determine your risk and appropriate treatment advice.
- **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 (such as your lower legs) with soap and water.**
- **Change clothing:** remove and wash all clothing immediately in a load by itself.
- **Store properly:** store pesticides and fertilizers in their original containers with child-resistant lids. Never transfer products to an unlabeled container. Place containers out of reach and 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.