



Use pesticides with care around your home

Help ensure products do what they are supposed to and keep you and loved ones safe

By Mark Ferrell

Pesticides properly used protect our health and food. Used carelessly, they can pose a serious danger.

Pesticides should only be used when there is no other way to effectively and economically control pests. Consider an integrated pest management (IPM) approach, which means using the best method available with the least risk to humans, pets, and environment. Contact your local University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service (UW

Terminology: The phrase “pesticides and herbicides” is often used. Some consider pesticides a product that only controls insects. However, herbicides are a subset of pesticides used to control unwanted plants. Pesticides include any products that kill or repel pests, which may include insects, certain animals, weedy plants, mildews, molds, bacteria, and others. Even products designed for use as disinfectants, such as toilet bowl cleaners, may be considered pesticides.

CES) office (<http://ces.uwyo.edu/Counties.asp>) to learn more about IPM.

Some creatures in and around our home are beneficial and should not be controlled; these include spiders, certain snakes, lacewings, and pirate bugs.

Pesticides are designed to target certain types of pests. Pest identification is the first and foremost step in deciding if a pesticide should be used. Once properly identified, selection of a pesticide or other means of control is possible.

Some good sources for help identifying pests are your local UW CES offices, weed and pest control district offices (www.wyoweed.org/addresses.html), or Master Gardeners.

Read the Label!

Before buying a pesticide, check the label to see if your particular pest is listed as one the product will control. **The importance of reading the label can't be overemphasized.** Never assume a product will control a certain pest not listed on its label.

There is often more than one product choice for a pest problem. If so, don't necessarily choose on the basis of cost alone but also consider products that may be more



environmentally friendly, less harmful to beneficial organisms, and perhaps easier to use.

Most products intended for use in and around the home are sold ready-to-use because they are already diluted. Some of the same active ingredients found in home and garden products may also be available in more concentrated formulations and sold under different brand names for agricultural and industrial uses. Many times, these concentrated products are not listed as approved for home use and may be illegal to use in the home environment except by licensed professionals because of toxicity or environmental concerns.

If you have a serious pest problem, consulting a professional may be best. Make sure the pest control professional is licensed in your state and can provide references. Check with your state's department of agriculture (for Wyoming residents, <http://wyagric.state.wy.us/>).

Applying pesticides at rates in excess of label directions is a misuse of that product and is illegal. If you cause damage to a neighbor's property when using pesticides, you are liable for the damage.

Calibration of pesticide application equipment is extremely important. Consult with your local professional if unsure how to calculate dilution recipes or calibrate spray equipment or visit BarnyardsandBackyards.com for more information on calibration.

Protection from Exposure

Pesticides may enter the body by several routes: mouth, inhalation, and absorption through the skin. The most common path is through the skin. Pesticide labels provide specific directions for skin protection. Gloves made of cotton, canvas, or leather should not be used when handling pesticides, as they absorb and hold pesticide residues in contact with the skin.

For better protection, disposable one-piece suits are available in materials such as Tyvek, a synthetic material which provides more protection than cotton.

Never consider that regular eyeglasses for corrective vision will provide adequate protection. Never wear contact lenses when applying pesticides since they can absorb

the chemical, and, once contaminated, the pesticide cannot be adequately removed. When finished with your pesticide application, clean the equipment with detergent and water (see recommendations below) and store in a safe place. Lastly, bathe and change into clean clothing.

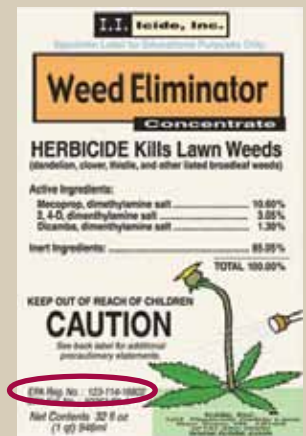
If you suspect you have been exposed to a pesticide and have symptoms such as dizziness, headache, or nausea, don't take chances; contact a medical professional and be ready to take the pesticide label with you to the clinic or emergency room. You can also call the Poison Control Center at (800) 222-1222 for immediate help. Be sure you have the pesticide label.

Clothing should be laundered separately and then line-dried. Clothing heavily contaminated with pesticides may not be able to be adequately cleaned; dispose of properly.

Storage and Disposal

Only buy what you need and promptly use it. Don't stockpile pesticides! There are several options for safe disposal of pesticides. Don't pour pesticides down drains, toilets, or in the trash. The best disposal of unwanted pesticides is to apply them to an approved site for an approved use. You can find the approved site and use on the pesticide label. Or, hold them until a community household hazardous waste

Labels: If unsure whether a particular product is a pesticide, check the package label for the Environmental Protection Agency registration number. The first set of numbers identifies the product's manufacturer while the second set identifies the specific pesticide.



DEFIANCE[®]

Sacred Horse Feed



Low-Starch Horse Feeds Formulated for Performance

- Ingredients based on **cutting edge equine nutrition.**
- Low non-structural carbohydrates (NSC).
- **High quality fat** and fiber-based ingredients.
- Defiance Horse Feed is energy dense and highly fortified. This feed is perfect for **high performance athletes, breeding mares and stallions**, and thin horses needing to gain weight safely.

Sold at **Fine** Feed Stores throughout Wyoming
CALL FOR A DEALER NEAR YOU!



800 333 7929, Box 2026
Fort Collins, CO 80522
Ranch-Way.com



Dealer Inquiries Welcome

collection event is held. Check with your local weed and pest control district to see when there might be a hazardous waste collection day.

After a pesticide container is empty, thoroughly clean by triple rinsing with water and adding the rinse water directly back into the sprayer. The rinse water can be sprayed onto the site approved by the label. Empty containers of dry formulations should be shaken directly onto the approved site or into the spreader. Check with your city to see if you can dispose of properly cleaned containers in trash or if they can be disposed of in a landfill.

For Training in Pesticide Use

Pesticide applicator/training workshop

<http://ces.uwyo.edu/UWPMC.asp>

Precautions When Using Pesticides Around Your Home



Keep the following in mind before using pesticides around the home:

- Read, understand, and follow all label instructions.
- Remove children's toys from the area being treated
- Remove or cover pet food and water dishes.
- Never place rodent baits where children, pets, or wildlife can access them.
- Store all pesticides in their original containers and out of reach of children. Pesticides stored in food or soft drink containers invite disaster because a child may associate the container with something good to eat or drink. It is also a misuse of the pesticide and is illegal.

WYOMING LIVESTOCK ROUNDUP

The Weekly News Source for Wyoming's Ranchers,
Farmers and AgriBusiness Community.
www.wylr.net



P.O. Box 850
Casper, WY 82602
(800) 967-1647 • (307) 234-2700

Mark Ferrell is the state pesticide coordinator for the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service. He can be reached at (307) 766- 5381 or ferrell@uwyo.edu.