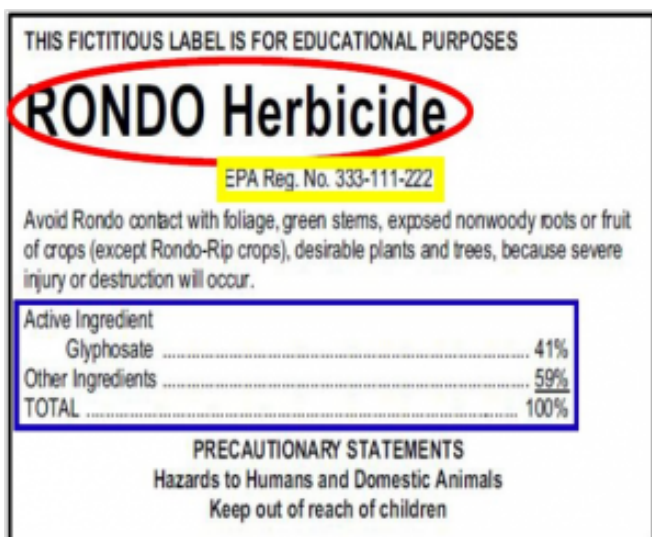


## How to Read the Label

The pesticide label is your best guide to using pesticides safely and effectively. The directions on the label are there primarily to help you achieve maximum benefits – the pest control that you desire – with minimum risk. Both depend on following label directions and correctly using the pesticide. Read the label before buying the pesticide. Follow the label each time you mix and use the pesticide, and follow the label when storing or disposing of the pesticide. Do not trust your memory. You may have forgotten part of the label instructions or they may have changed since the last time you purchased the product. **Use of any pesticide in any way that does not comply with label directions and precautions is illegal.** It may also be ineffective on the pests and, even worse, pose risks to users or the environment.

The main sections of a pesticide label are described below:

### Brand Name



The brand or trade name is the name on the front panel of the label that you commonly use to identify the product, such as Roundup or Sevin. **Products with the same active ingredient, may have completely different brand names** depending on the manufacturer or company that registers the pesticide with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Likewise, very **similar brand names used by two different companies may contain different active ingredients.**

### EPA Registration Number

This number tells you that EPA has reviewed the product and determined that it can be used with minimal or low risk **if you follow the directions on the label properly.**

### Ingredients Statement

Active ingredients are the chemicals in the pesticide that kill or control the target pest(s). Inert ingredients often improve the effectiveness or safety of a pesticide. This section provides the chemical name of each active ingredient, the percentage by weight of each active ingredient, and the percentage by weight of all inert ingredients. Inert ingredients are not listed individually nor identified by name.

## Signal Words

The signal words – **Caution**, **Warning**, or **Danger** – indicate the acute toxicity of the product to humans, based on one or more potential routes of exposure. The statement “**keep out of reach of children**” must also appear with signal words on the label of *all* pesticides.



**CAUTION** — Pesticides that are the least harmful to you

**WARNING** — More toxic than those with a Caution label

**DANGER** — Very poisonous or irritating and should be used with extreme care because they can severely burn your skin and eyes. Most pesticides with DANGER signal word are restricted-use pesticides and are not available to the general public

## Precautionary Statements

This part describes the protective clothing, such as gloves or goggles that you should wear when using the pesticide. The section also tells you how to protect children or pets by keeping them away from areas treated with pesticides.

## First Aid Instructions (Statement of Practical Treatment)

The label tells you what to do if someone is accidentally poisoned by the pesticide. *These instructions are only first aid.* ALWAYS call the emergency number listed on the label, a doctor, or the poison center, if someone is accidentally poisoned by the pesticide. You may have to take the person to a hospital right away after giving first aid. Remember to take the pesticide label or container with you.

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The label lists PPE needed to prevent exposure to the pesticide. Be sure to read this section before purchasing the pesticide.

# Environmental Hazards

## ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

This product is extremely toxic to aquatic and estuarine invertebrates.  
Do not contaminate water by cleaning equipment or disposal of wastes.

## BEE CAUTION: MAY KILL HONEYBEES IN SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS.

This product is highly toxic to bees exposed to direct treatment or residues on blooming crops or weeds.  
Do not apply this product or allow it to drift to blooming crops or weeds if bees are visiting the treatment area.

This section indicates if the product can cause environmental damage – if it's harmful to wildlife, fish, pollinators, endangered plants or animals, or water bodies such as ponds, lakes, rivers and wetlands.



**Directions for Use.** Make sure that the product is labeled for use against the pest(s) that you are trying to control. (For example, products labeled only for termites cannot be used to control fleas.) *Use only the amounts indicated, and follow the directions exactly.*

# Storage and Disposal

Storage and Disposal. Read carefully and follow all directions for safe storage and disposal of pesticide products. Always keep products in the original container and out of reach of children, in a locked cabinet or locked garden shed. Disposal of pesticide containers in a manner not listed by the label could lead to contamination of the environment or harm to other people. For more information see the Storing Pesticides (link) and Pesticide and Container Disposal (link) sections of this page.

## Storage and Disposal

**Storage:** Store in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area, but not below 32°F.

**Pesticide Disposal:** Do not contaminate water, food or feed by storage or disposal. Pesticide wastes are toxic. Improper disposal of excess pesticide, spray mixture or rinsate is a violation of Federal law. If these wastes cannot be disposed of by use according to label instructions, contact your State Pesticide or Environmental Control Agency, or the Hazardous Waste representative at the nearest EPA regional office for guidance.

**Container Disposal:** Triple rinse (or equivalent). Then puncture and dispose of in a sanitary landfill, by incineration or, if allowed by State and local authorities, by burning. If burned stay out of smoke.

Other parts of the label provide additional important information about use of the pesticide. Be sure to read the *entire* label before *each* use of the pesticide.



Compiled by Wayne Buhler, PhD.

