



Federal law prohibits using pesticide products in a manner not specified on the label. There are four exceptions to this rule:

1. Applying pesticides at a concentration or frequency **less than** that specified on the label.
2. Applying pesticides to a target pest that is not specified on the label if the application is to a crop, animal or site that is specified on the label.
3. Using a method of application that is not listed on the label, but is also not prohibited by the label.
4. Mixing a pesticide with a fertilizer if the mixture is not specifically prohibited by the label.

Read the pesticide label before you buy the product to determine:

- ◆ if the pesticide will control your pest(s).
- ◆ if the pesticide is approved for use at your site or on your plants/crop/lawn/pasture.
- ◆ the amount of pesticide that is needed. Buy only what you need to avoid problems during storage.
- ◆ the required application equipment.
- ◆ the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) you must wear during the application.
- ◆ the application instructions and restrictions.

Read the pesticide label before you mix the product to determine:

- ◆ the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) you must use when mixing.
- ◆ the amount of pesticide to use on your site or pest.
- ◆ the proper mixing procedure.
- ◆ the compatibility of the pesticide with other products you may want to apply at the same time.

Read the pesticide label before you apply the pesticide to determine:

- ◆ the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) you should use. PPE requirements may be different for **mixing** pesticides than **applying**

pesticides.

- ◆ the safety measures you should follow to minimize harm to humans, non-target animals and non-target plants. This includes weather conditions, time of day, etc.
- ◆ restrictions on re-entering the application site, including the restricted entry interval (REI). Many times, for general-use pesticides, the restrictions prohibit people or animals from entering the area until the product has dried or dust has settled.

Read the pesticide label before you store or dispose of the pesticide or pesticide container to determine:

- ◆ where and how to store the pesticide.
- ◆ how to dispose of the pesticide container.
- ◆ how (or sometimes where) to dispose of surplus pesticides.

Be sure to always store pesticides in their original containers. The original packaging contains the label, as required by law. Keep any additional labeling brochures or leaflets with the pesticide. This ensures easy access to the information you need to mix, apply, store and dispose of the pesticide properly.

References:

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Petroff, R., 2004, Pesticide Labels, Montana State University Extension Service, MT 199720, <http://www.pesticides.montana.edu/Reference/PesticidLabelsMT199720AG.pdf>

U.S. EPA, 2006, Chapter 3: General Labeling Requirements, Label Review Manual, <http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/labeling/lrm/chap-03.pdf>

U.S. EPA, 2011, Minimum Risk Pesticides, http://www.epa.gov/oppbppd1/biopesticides/regtools/25b_list.htm

Understanding Pesticide Labels

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Pesticides are used in a variety of ways in our everyday life. Some of the most commonly used pesticides include herbicides, which kill weeds or unwanted plants; insecticides, which kill insect pests; and rodenticides, which kill unwanted rodents, such as rats and mice. These products are helpful when used correctly, but can be dangerous to humans, animals and the environment if misused. To guard against mishaps, pesticide labels include a variety of essential information that the user is required to follow.

The registration, manufacture, sale, transport, use and labeling of pesticides is regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). ***It is your legal responsibility as a pesticide user to read, understand and follow the label directions.***

All pesticides must have a written or printed label that is found on or attached to the pesticide container or its wrappings. It is illegal to remove this label from the product. The term “pesticide labeling” is a general term that refers to all other written, printed or graphic material that is provided with the pesticide by either the manufacturer or the retailer. These materials might include brochures, leaflets or other printed materials that are separate from the label that is attached to the product. There may also be additional sources of information, such as websites, to which the label refers the user.

FIFRA lists specific information that must always be included on a pesticide label. Unfortunately, FIFRA does not specify the exact order in which the information should be listed, and it may vary from product to product.

Certain required information must appear on the front panel of the label. This includes:

- ◆ brand name.
- ◆ use classification (general use or restricted use).
- ◆ list of ingredients.
- ◆ “Keep Out of Reach of Children” statement.
- ◆ signal word and skull and crossbones symbol, if required.
- ◆ first aid statement, if required by the EPA to appear on the front panel.
- ◆ net contents or net weight.

FIFRA regulations allow the EPA registration numbers, the establishment number for the facility that produced the product, and the manufacturing company’s name and address to be shown on either the front or back panel. FIFRA also allows precautionary statements, such as hazards to humans and domestic animals, first aid requirements, environmental hazards, and physical and chemical hazards to be on the back panel of the label. Additionally, the back panel may contain directions for use, storage and disposal, warranty statements and Worker Protection Standard (WPS) information.

The following mock pesticide label shows many of the types of statements that may be found on a pesticide label.

Trade, Brand or Product Name: Brand names are given by the company. Many brands can contain the same active ingredient(s).

Statement of Practical Treatment: This tells users and medical professionals the emergency first aid needed in case of accidents.

Ingredient Statement: Every pesticide label must list the active ingredient(s) in the product. If the product contains more than one active ingredient, it must also list the percentage of each active ingredient. The percentage can be listed as a percent by weight or as pounds per gallon of concentrate. Both the common name and the chemical name of the active ingredient may be listed.

User Safety Recommendations: These are additional directions to users to ensure their safety and the safety of the environment.

Precautionary Statements: These are additional statements on pesticide labels that offer precautions to pesticide applicators to reduce the potential for pesticide exposure. Sometimes these statements are found under the heading "Hazards to Humans and Domestic Animals." This portion of the label contains statements that refer to the specific hazards, routes of entry you need to protect and/or specific actions you need to take to avoid exposure. The EPA also requires that products that may have delayed (chronic) effects include label statements warning you of these potential hazards. These additional statements warn you if the product has been shown to cause long-term health issues, such as tumors or reproductive problems, in laboratory animals.

Physical or Chemical Hazards: If a product has the potential to pose a fire, explosion or chemical hazard, it will be noted here. Hazard statements may be followed by action statements, such as "Flammable, keep away from open flame." This information may be in a separate section, may be listed under the signal word, or under a heading such as NOTE or IMPORTANT.

Protective Clothing and Equipment Statements: These statements are also referred to as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) instructions. Many pesticide labels contain specific information concerning the type of clothing that must be worn during handling, mixing and/or applying a pesticide. Sometimes the requirements are different for mixing than they are for applying the pesticide. The PPE specified on the label is the **MINIMUM** protection that should be worn when handling the pesticide.

Environmental Hazards: This portion of the label explains any potential hazards to the environment, such as wildlife or water quality hazards. This information may be in a separate section, may be listed under the signal word, or under a heading such as NOTE or IMPORTANT. These statements may be general in nature or they may be quite descriptive.

Statement of Practical Treatment
FIRST AID
Moderate eye irritation can occur.
Harmful if swallowed or inhaled.

- Have the product container or label with you when calling a poison control center or doctor, or going in for treatment.
- You may contact 1-800-555-1234 for emergency medical treatment information.
- This product is identified as Weeds-R-Dead Weed and Grass Killer, EPA Reg. No. 12345-67.

If this product gets into eyes: Hold eye open and rinse with water for 15-20 minutes. Remove contact lenses after the first 5 minutes of rinsing and then continue rinsing eyes.

If this product is inhaled: Remove individual to fresh air. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. Get medical attention.

If this product is swallowed: This product will cause gastrointestinal tract irritation. Immediately dilute by swallowing water or milk. Get medical attention. NEVER GIVE ANYTHING BY MOUTH TO AN UNCONSCIOUS PERSON. Call a Poison Control center or doctor for additional treatment advice.

PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS
Hazards to Humans and Domestic Animals: Harmful if swallowed or inhaled. Avoid breathing vapor or spray mist. Causes moderate eye irritation. Avoid contact with eyes or clothing.

Wash thoroughly with soap and water after handling. People and pets may enter treated area after 12 hours.

Personal Protective Equipment
Applicators and other handlers must wear:

- Long-sleeved shirts
- Long pants
- Chemical-resistant gloves
- Chemical-resistant footwear plus socks
- Protective eyewear

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS
Do not apply directly to water. Do not contaminate water when cleaning equipment or disposing of equipment wash water.

Statement of Practical Treatment
WEEDS-R-DEAD WEED AND GRASS KILLER

Kills all types of weeds and grasses

Active Ingredients:
Killthion.....22%
Related Isomers.....1%
Inert Ingredients.....77%
Total 100%
Contains 4 pounds per gallon of the active ingredient Killthion

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN
WARNING! AVISO!
Si usted no entiende la etiqueta, busque a alguien para que se la explique a usted en detalle (If you do not understand the label, find someone to explain it to you in detail.)
Do not get in eyes or on clothing.
Avoid breathing vapor or spray mist.

User Safety Recommendations

- Wash hands before eating, drinking, smoking, chewing gum or using the toilet.
- Remove clothing immediately if it becomes contaminated. Then wash thoroughly and put on clean clothing.

Physical or Chemical Hazards
Do not use or store near heat or open flame.

STORAGE AND DISPOSAL
DO NOT CONTAMINATE WATER, FOOD OR FEED BY STORAGE OR DISPOSAL.
Rotate the nozzle to closed position. Store this product in its original container in a safe place away from direct sunlight. This product should be stored between 40 and 80 degrees F. Empty containers should be triple-rinsed, punctured, then disposed of in the trash or recycled. Rinse water should be applied to the site. Partial containers should not be disposed of in the trash. Call your local recycling center for disposal directions. NEVER POUR UNUSED PRODUCT DOWN AN INDOOR OR OUTDOOR DRAIN!

DIRECTIONS FOR USE
It is a violation of federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling. This product can only be used in accordance with the Directions for Use on this label or in separately published Supplemental Labeling. Do not apply this product in a way that will contact workers or other persons, either directly or through drift. Only protected handlers may be in the area during application. For any requirements specific to your State or Tribe, consult the agency responsible for pesticide regulation.
IMPORTANT: DO NOT SPRAY PLANTS OR GRASSES YOU WANT TO KEEP – THEY WILL DIE. Not recommended for spot treatment in lawns, since this product also kills grasses.

How to apply: Adjust nozzle to the desired setting. Spray the weeds or grasses you want to kill until thoroughly coated with product. When spot treating around desirable plants, protect them from drift using plastic or cardboard shields. If desirable plants are accidentally sprayed, rinse them off immediately with water.
When to apply: Apply when weeds are actively growing. For best results, apply when temperatures are above 60 degrees F and there is no chance of rain. Spray when winds are calm to avoid drift.

AGRICULTURAL REQUIREMENTS
Use this product only in accordance with its labeling and with the Worker Protection Standard, 40 CFR part 170.
DO NOT ENTER OR ALLOW WORKER ENTRY INTO TREATED AREAS DURING THE RESTRICTED ENTRY INTERVAL (REI) OF 12 HOURS.
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required for early entry to treated areas that is permitted under the Worker Protection Standard and that involves contact with anything that has been treated, such as plants, soil or water is: long sleeved shirt, long pants, chemical-resistant gloves, chemical-resistant footwear plus socks and protective eyewear.

EPA Reg. No. 12345-67, EPA Est. No. 98765-NV-3
WILD WEST CHEMICAL COMPANY
456 Any Street
Wild West, Any State, 98765

Use Classification Statement: The EPA classifies pesticides as Restricted Use (RUP) or General Use (Unclassified Use). RUPs are only available to certified applicators. If this product was a Restricted Use Pesticide, it would be indicated above the product name.

Type of Pesticide: The type of pesticide refers to the *pest* the pesticide is supposed to control. For example, an insecticide controls insects; an herbicide controls plants, etc.

Signal Words: These words help you assess the toxicity of the product. **DANGER – POISON** (with a skull and crossbones symbol and the word POISON in red): These two signal words must appear on any product that is highly toxic by any route of entry into the body. "PELIGRO," the Spanish word for "DANGER," must also appear on the label. **DANGER:** These products are corrosive and can cause irreversible skin and eye damage. **WARNING:** These products are moderately toxic by mouth, skin or through inhalation. They can cause moderate skin or eye irritation. "AVISO", the Spanish word for "WARNING," must also appear on the label. **CAUTION:** These products are slightly toxic by mouth, skin or through inhalation. They may cause slight skin or eye irritation.

Directions for Use: This section directs the applicator how to properly mix and apply the pesticide to achieve the best results. It details the pests it controls (insects, plants, etc.); the crops or sites approved for use; the rate of application, which may differ for different sites or pests; the method of application and suggested application equipment; limitations and restrictions, such as harvest intervals and application frequencies; mixing directions; spray drift mitigation; and other directions or prohibitions specific to applying the pesticide.

Agricultural Use Requirements: If the product is labeled for use on farms or in forests, nurseries or greenhouses, it must conform to the Worker Protection Standard (WPS). The WPS has specific pesticide-labeling requirements designed to protect agricultural workers and pesticide handlers from pesticide exposure. One of the most important is the Restricted Entry Interval (REI). This is the time that must pass after pesticide application occurs before anyone can enter the treated area. If re-entry must occur, the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements for early entry are usually listed. Note: for non-agricultural products, such as turf or rights-of-way, there is no Agricultural Use Requirements box and there may be no re-entry period listed. If no REI is listed, the label will generally warn people and their domestic animals not to enter the treated area until the application has dried or the dust has settled.

Storage and Disposal Statement: Most pesticides include some basic guidelines for pesticide storage. Most often, this section notes that pesticides should be stored in cool, dry, well-ventilated spaces away from food, feed and water supplies. Pesticides should always be stored in their original containers with the label attached. This section also details disposal directions. Most often, empty containers should be triple-rinsed or pressure-rinsed and punctured to prevent re-use.

EPA Registration Number: An EPA registration number must appear on all pesticide labels, unless it is an EPA-approved minimum risk (FIFRA 25b) pesticide product. This indicates the product was registered and its label approved by the U.S. EPA. **EPA Establishment Number:** This number refers to the facility that produced the product. **Name and Address of Manufacturer:** The law requires this information to be provided so that consumers know who made the product.