

Pesticide Safety

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What are Herbicides, Pesticides, and Fertilizers?

Three types of chemicals are commonly used in large-scale agricultural operations and for home gardens to improve plant growth.

- *Herbicides* are chemicals that control or kill unwanted plants or weeds that compete with crops for nutrients and water.
- *Pesticides* are chemicals that control or kill pests that can damage the plant.
- *Fertilizers* provide additional nutrients in the soil to help the plant grow. These products usually include nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.

While these chemicals can benefit agricultural and home gardens, they can also adversely affect the environment and human health if not used and disposed of properly.

Product Ingredients

Reading labels for these types of chemicals is essential because it provides information about the product, such as the active ingredients, potential toxicities, and specific safety measures that need to be taken to use the product. Make sure to read whether the product is ready-to-use or if it is concentrated and requires dilution. Following the instructions provided on the product labeling can help ensure the safety and effective use of the product.

Before Use

- Read the label.
- Ventilate if indoors: open windows and doors to provide circulation of fresh air.
- Wear protective clothing: to create a protective barrier between your skin and the chemical. Wear gloves, long sleeves, and eye protection when using these chemicals.



After Use

- Change clothing: Remove clothing and wash immediately after by itself.
- Wash exposed extremities/skin: Wash the skin with soap and water. Do this regardless of protective clothing and other protective measures were used.

Safe Storage and Disposal

Storage: Store products in their original containers away from the reach of children and pets. Ensure products are kept in child-resistant lids and properly labeled. Do NOT store near food or drink containers.

Disposal: Find your local hazardous waste or waste management facility to locate your closest household disposal location and understand your local disposal procedure plan.

First Aid for Poisoning

Inhaled: Move self/affected individual to fresh air. Ventilate the area by opening doors and windows.

Skin Exposure: Remove contaminated clothing and jewelry. Wash the skin with lukewarm water for 10 minutes or until the irritation has subsided.

Eye Exposure: Flush the eyes out with lukewarm water for 10 minutes or until the irritation has subsided.

Swallowed: Do NOT induce vomiting! Wipe out and rinse the mouth with water.

To prevent poisoning, keep dangerous items out of reach of children and pets. Use them safely and correctly. Call the Poison Center at **1-800-222-1222** for further instruction and exposure questions. Have the product ready to provide information to the specialist on the phone.

Upcoming Events

- 7/11: Woodbury Safety Camp
- 7/13: Brooklyn Center Farmers Market
- 8/1-8/3: Farmfest
- 8/8-Brooklyn Center Safety Academy



Did You Know?

- The most important step in helping a poison who is poisoned is to call the Poison Center immediately.
- Never wait for symptoms to occur; even if the person looks and feels fine, you still need to call immediately.
- Poisoning related symptoms can be delayed.
- What you do in the first few minutes can mean the difference between life and death.
- Better to call and not need us than the other way around

