

# Safe Use & Disposal of Pesticides

**Pesticides are designed to be toxic to the pests they target – insects, weeds and other unwanted home and garden invaders.** Always read pesticide product labels carefully and follow all directions on proper use, storage and disposal of empty pesticide containers. Product labels are your main source of information on how to use a product safely and legally, following guidelines needed to protect you, your family and pets. The only allowable way to dispose of unused pesticides is through a household hazardous waste collection site. For the site nearest you, call Earth's 911 (1-800-CLEANUP) or visit the website <http://www.CLEANUP.org>.

## If you must use pesticides, follow these tips to reduce pesticide effects on your local waterways:

- ▶ Identify your pest problem and choose the least toxic pesticide that targets your pest and achieves the results you want. If you need help identifying the least toxic pest control method, contact your University of California Cooperative Extension office.
- ▶ Determine the right amount of pesticide to purchase. Purchasing exactly the amount you need for the application eliminates the need for storing unused pesticides.
- ▶ Use spot treatments whenever possible.

### Outdoors

- ▶ Avoid overwatering after applying pesticides. Never let pesticide run-off flow into storm drains.
- ▶ Do not apply pesticides outdoors when rain is forecast or when it is windy out.
- ▶ Avoid applying pesticides on paved areas.

### Indoors

- ▶ Avoid applying pesticides in or near floor drains or sinks.
- ▶ Avoid applying pesticides on areas that will be washed or mopped with water, or where food is prepared or stored.



## When using and storing pesticides take these precautions:

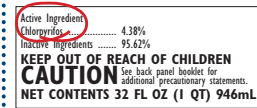
- ▶ Always wear a long sleeved shirt, pants and eye protection, and other equipment suggested on the label.
- ▶ Store products tightly capped in a locked cabinet out of reach from children and pets.
- ▶ Always keep pesticides in their original container.
- ▶ Know where to call for help in an emergency!

## Pesticide disposal:

- ▶ If you cannot use up your pesticides, fertilizers and weed killers, give them to a friend who may need them.
- ▶ Sewage treatment plants are not designed to treat for certain toxic pesticides like diazinon and chlorpyrifos — dumping pesticides into the stormdrain or down the sink is never an option.
- ▶ The only allowable way to dispose of unused pesticides is through a household hazardous waste collection site. For the site nearest you, call Earth's 911 (1-800-CLEANUP) or visit the website <http://www.CLEANUP.org>.

## Finding active ingredients on a pesticide label:

Pesticide labels are required by law to show the active ingredient and its percentage. Minimize or avoid the use of products that contain diazinon and chlorpyrifos — these materials are polluting our waterways. Always read the label before you buy!



Be sure to read product labels carefully and follow all instructions on proper use, storage and disposal of pesticides.

## PROTECT YOUR WATER

Runoff in the Fresno-Clovis area drains to ponding basins and replenishes our groundwater, the source of our drinking water. Protect your water by minimizing the use of pesticides and choosing less toxic products. To dispose of household hazardous waste, call the County of Fresno at (559) 262-4259 for a site nearest you.

For more information, contact the **UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners** in Fresno at (559) 456-7564 or email them at [mgfresno@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mgfresno@ucdavis.edu). You can also contact the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District at (559) 456-3292 or email them at [fmfcd.env@verizon.net](mailto:fmfcd.env@verizon.net), or visit their website at [www.fresnofloodcontrol.org](http://www.fresnofloodcontrol.org).

FRESNO  
METROPOLITAN  
FLOOD CONTROL  
DISTRICT



Clean Storm Water  
...is everybody's business

What you use in your garden affects our drinking water, creeks, canals and rivers!



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California  
Cooperative  
Extension



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