Pesticide Labeling

Your safety as well as the safety of other people and the environment all depend on reading and understanding the label.

Pesticide Labels

- Contain the information critical to using the product effectively and safely.
- Include detailed information on safety precautions (human and environmental)

It is extremely important that you familiarize yourself with the ENTIRE label of the products you use.

Don't take it for granted that this year’s label is the same as last year’s.
Don't rely on third party recommendations.

Not following the label instructions is a violation of Federal and/or State law.

Label violations can lead to fines and significant legal problems for the applicator.

Ignorance of the label is never considered an adequate defense if enforcement action is taken against you.
Signal Words

The signal word gives the relative acute toxicity of the concentrated product.

- Danger/Poison = Very toxic (a few drops may be lethal)
- Warning = Moderately toxic
- Caution = Slightly toxic

Acute - Immediate effects of a single short term exposure to a pesticide. Acute toxicity is indicated by the “signal word” on the front of the label (Danger, Warning, Caution)

Chronic - Delayed effects (cancer, birth defects, nervous system damage) of repeated exposure over a long period.

- You may or may not have symptoms with chronic exposure.
- Check the MSDS sheet for each product to learn more about chronic toxicity.

Risk = Toxicity X Exposure

Wear required PPE, clean up, use common sense.

The dose makes the poison.

Bottom line: If you don’t get the product on you or in you, the risks are low.
Skin Absorption Rates are Different for Different Parts of the Body

- Forearm - 1.0
- Forehead - 4.2
- Groin - 11.8

Any area having thin skin and a relatively large blood supply will absorb pesticides rapidly (underarms, tops of feet, etc.).

Spill on Skin

- Remove pesticide and contaminated clothing immediately.
- Use liquid soap and don’t forget hair and fingernails. Do not use waterless hand cleaners!

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The minimum PPE consists of:
- Long sleeve shirt
- Long pants
- Shoes and socks
- Waterproof gloves

But you must wear what the label specifies, no exceptions.

PPE for mixing and loading may be different than for application.

Choose knee-high rubber or chemical Resistant boots without holes. Wear cuff on outside of boot. Avoid Leather or other materials that can absorb chemicals.

Respirators

Lungs absorb pesticides rapidly. Use the proper respirator as directed by the label.
First Aid

The First Aid section gives detailed information on how to treat poisoning. This section is important for you as well as doctors treating poisoning victims. If you have unusual symptoms soon after exposure you should seek medical attention.

National Poison & Drug Information Center

In emergencies call:

800-222-1222

Empty Containers

- Triple or jet rinse immediately after emptying
- Turn in plastic containers for recycling
- Landfills - check with operator
- Do not burn or bury containers

Excess Spray Mixture

- Must be used on a labeled site
- Avoid the problem by careful measurement and calibration

Excess Formulation

- Must be used on a labeled site
- Keep in original container
- Must be used on a labeled site
- Keep in original container
- Contact a hazardous waste contractor for disposal ($$$)
- Don't buy more than you need for the year.
Rinse water

- Rinse well but minimize rinse water.
- Reapply to your application site or another labeled site.
- Reuse as mix water for other spraying in certain situations.
- Or, reapply to a labeled site after collecting and storing.
- Do not dump.

To Avoid Surface Water Contamination

- Follow label directions and precautions regarding off-site movement of pesticides and protection of surface water.
- Observe buffer zone requirements around bodies of water.
- If the label has no buffer zone requirements, you need to be very careful with your applications around lakes, streams, or ponds.

Reduce Groundwater Contamination Risk

- Follow proper application procedures (wind speed, rates, gpa, etc.).
- Identify vulnerable areas (sand blows, sinkholes, streams, wells, etc.).
- Select safest products when possible.
- Prevent pesticide spills

Pesticide Spills

- Control the spill - stop the leak
- Contain the spill
- Clean up the spill with spill kit
- Report major spills to the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management: 800-322-4012