

CHEMICALS AROUND THE HOME

Most garden chemicals are toxic and can cause ill-health to yourself and others if used incorrectly.

Following is a guide for their safe use.

1. READ THE LABEL

The importance of this advice cannot be over-emphasised.

- a) It identifies the product
- b) It tells you how to use the product for the maximum effect
- c) It provides a guide to safe handling, storage and use.

ONLY BUY A PRODUCT IF THE INFORMATION ON THE LABEL INDICATES IT IS SUITABLE FOR YOUR NEEDS.

2. BEFORE APPLYING, DETERMINE

- What it may be applied to
- When to apply it
- How to apply it
- What are the holding instructions

3. SAFETY GUIDE LINES

Anybody who uses garden chemicals should follow the following instructions:

- When spraying see that your skin and airways are protected
- Wear a hat, face mask, gloves, long sleeves and full length trousers and shoes.
- Spray early morning or in the evening.
- If there is a light wind, spray in the same direction as the wind.

4. HANDLING OF CHEMICALS

Before opening any container make sure you are wearing gloves, preferably PVC type. Open containers carefully on a stable surface where they will not tip or spill easily. Take care when pouring from containers.

NEVER USE YOUR MOUTH TO SIPHON LIQUID MATERIALS OR TO BLOW OUT AN OBSTRUCTED SPRAY NOZZLE.

5. STORE CHEMICALS SAFELY

Always keep chemicals in their original containers and make sure the labels stay on. Do not transfer chemicals to food containers as children may eat or drink them. Pesticides and other products should be stored in locked, cool and well ventilated cupboards. NOT under the kitchen sink or near foods.

6. DISPOSAL OF CHEMICALS AND CONTAINERS

Empty containers need to be disposed of properly. Rinse them several times to ensure all the chemical is removed. Pressure cans should be absolutely empty and have NO pressure remaining in them. Once emptied they should be disposed of, keeping them out of the sunlight and heat.

7. PESTICIDES AND YOUR HEALTH

There are three ways a pesticide may enter the body:

- breathing it in
- swallowing it
- through the skin (either the spray drift or from incorrect handling)

To avoid these types of contact, follow the following safety advice:

- wear protective clothing
- mix pesticides in a ventilated area
- do not store chemicals near food
- avoid spraying on windy days
- wash hands and equipment thoroughly after use
- wash fruit and vegetables before eating.

The following symptoms may indicate pesticides are affecting human health; Headache, fatigue, skin irritation, loss of appetite, dizziness, nausea or eye irritation.

If you have these symptoms after being exposed to pesticides, it is advisable to seek medical advice or contact:

The Poisons Information Centre
Roberts Road, Subiaco 6008
Telephone: 13 11 26