

## Pesticides

Americans use more than a billion pounds of pesticides each year to combat pests on farm crops, in homes, places of business, schools, parks, hospitals, and other public places. Adverse effects of pesticide exposure range from mild symptoms of dizziness and nausea to serious, long-term neurological, developmental and reproductive disorders. Children are at a greater risk for pesticide poisonings. Children's internal organs are still developing and maturing. Children may be exposed more to certain pesticides because often they eat different foods than adults; children typically consume more milk, applesauce, and orange juice per pound of body weight than do adults. Children's behaviors, such as playing on the floor or on the lawn, or putting objects in their mouths, increase their chances of exposure to pesticides. Poisoning incidents can be prevented if products that could potentially harm children are locked up. Yet, an EPA study found that among households with children under the age of five, nearly half stored pesticides in an unlocked cabinet, within reach of children. For more information on pesticides and integrated pest management, please [click here](#)

- Try prevention before using pesticides.
- Choose the least toxic option.
- Always store pesticides out of the reach of children and pets, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Read the label! Carefully read and follow manufacturer's label.
- **Don't assume twice as much is better.** Always read and follow manufacturer's directions.
- Remove children, pets, toys, bottles and pacifiers before applying pesticides. Follow label directions to determine when children and pets can return to the area that has been treated.
- Don't transfer pesticides to other containers. Whenever possible, use ready-to-use products. If product requires water to be added, only mix as much as you are going to use at one time. Do not mix products in food or beverage containers.
- Don't use empty pesticide containers to store anything else. Do not use containers you've mixed pesticides in for anything else. No matter how well you wash the container, it could still contain remnants of the pesticide and could harm someone.
- Properly dispose of leftover pesticides and pesticide containers. Pesticides can be recycled at Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency. For more information, visit their website at [www.solidwasteagency.org](http://www.solidwasteagency.org) or call them at (319) 377-5290.
- To protect children and pets from exposure to insecticides, use products with a tamper-resistant bait station.
- If your use of a pesticide is interrupted, properly reclose the container and remove it from children's reach.
- When applying insect repellents to children, read directions. Don't apply over cuts, wounds, or irritated skin; don't apply to eyes, mouth, hands, or directly on face; and use just enough to cover exposed skin or clothing, but do not use under clothing.

- **Don't use outdoor chemicals inside.** Many chemicals intended for use outdoors are dangerous to use indoors because they will not properly breakdown indoors and remain toxic longer indoors than they would outdoors.
- Don't use illegal pesticides; look for EPA registration number (i.e., EPA Reg. No. 500-123456).
- **Do not use foggers.**
- Wash children's hands, toys, and bottles often. Regularly clean floors, window sills, and other surfaces to reduce possible exposure to lead and pesticide residues.

1. American Association of Poison Centers
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online]. (2012) [cited 2012 Feb 1]. Available from URL: [www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars)
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Prescription painkiller overdoses in the US. Vital Signs. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2011
4. Schillie SF, Shehab, N, Thomas, KE, Budnitz DS. Medication overdoses leading to emergency department visits among children. Am J Prev Med 2009;37:181-187.