

Pest Smart Tips

- If you choose to use pesticides, read the label carefully and always use precautions to apply pesticides.
- Never water your lawn after applying pesticides.
- Use only the amount recommended on the product label. Any amount left over should never be mixed with other pesticide products or chemicals.
- Always wear appropriate protective clothing. Never wash contaminated clothing with other clothing.
- Avoid planting your garden where treatments for pesticides are regularly applied.
- Avoid applying excessive amounts of pesticide products. Runoff from chemicals can spread onto concrete or paved surfaces and may enter storm drains or waterways with NO treatment.
- Avoid applying pesticide products outside on windy or rainy days. Never apply pesticides near storm drains or creeks.



References

Alabama Integrated Pest Management Information Center-
What is IPM?

<http://www.aces.edu/anr/ipm/whatisIPM.php>

Alabama Cooperative Extension System-Integrated
Pest Management

<http://www.aces.edu/anr/ipm/>

Pesticides: Topical & Chemical Fact Sheets-Integrated
Pest Management (IPM) Principles

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/ipm.htm>

Pesticides: Topical & Chemical Fact Sheets-Pesticide Safety Tips

http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/pest_ti.htm

PestWise An EPA Partnership Program-Integrated
Pest Management (IPM) Fact Sheet

http://www.epa.gov/pestwise/htmlpublications/ipm_fact_sheet.html

Pesticides

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/>

Pesticides: Regulating Pesticides-Safe Disposal of Pesticides

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/disposal.htm>

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Schools

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/>

Citizen's Guide to Pest Control and Pesticide Safety

http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/Publications/Cit_Guide/citguide.pdf

University of Michigan Occupational Safety and Environmental
Health Storm Water-Proper Use of Pesticides, Herbicides
& Fertilizers

[http://www.oseh.umich.edu/
environmental/pesticidesandfertilizers.html](http://www.oseh.umich.edu/environmental/pesticidesandfertilizers.html)



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Jefferson County Department of Health
Watershed Protection Program

in Cooperation with the

Stormwater Management Authority

Pesticides



Stormwater Hotline
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Integrated Pest Management

Pesticides should be applied only as needed. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices should be utilized before applying pesticide products. IPM practices can be applied in rural and urban areas such as in the home, yard, garden area and the workplace to prevent pests from becoming a threat.

Integrated Pest Management is used to incorporate the biological, physical, and least-toxic chemical pest prevention and control methods. IPM controls pests by the most cost-effective means and with the least possible hazards to people, property and the environment.

The least effective control approach is the application of chemicals alone. Using chemicals alone can result in very poor control to reduce or eliminate pests. Sanitation is the key! Remove access to food, water and shelter from pest.

Examples of Integrated Pest Management Practices Include:

- Vegetation, shrubs and wood mulch should be kept at least one foot away from structures.
- Cracks and crevices in walls, floors and pavement should be sealed or eliminated.
- Fertilizers should be sparingly applied seasonally during the year, rather than one heavy application.
- If pesticides are necessary, use spot treatments rather than area-wide applications.

Pest Control and Safety

Once you have identified the pests around your home or work area, purchase only the amount of pesticides that you are going to use. Any leftover pesticides should be used; for example, you can ask your neighbors if they have a similar pest control problem and allow them to use the pesticide.

Always keep pesticides in the original container, separate from fertilizer and herbicides products. Do not reuse the containers with remaining pesticide products. Place containers in the trash, unless the label specifies a different procedure.

Listed below are safety tips that you can follow if children visit your home or yard:

- Always store pesticide products away from children, such as; in locked cabinets or garden sheds.
- Avoid placing rodent or insect baits where small children can get to them.
- Teach children that “pesticides are poisons”- something they should not touch.
- Caution others of the potential hazard of pesticides, including care givers and grandparents.



Storm Drains

Pesticides can negatively affect the quality of water. Whatever flows into the storm drain flows untreated into the waterway. A storm drain is designed to carry excess storm (rain) and ground water from streets and parking lots to prevent flooding. Rain water soaks into the ground; however, once there is pavement blocking water from gaining access to the soil, rain water goes through the storm drains.

Never store pesticides in places where flooding is possible or in places where they might spill or leak into wells, drains, ground water, or surface water. Stormwater runoff can transport chemicals from fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides into storm drains, streams or waterways. Surface runoff containing these chemicals may cause harmful effects in the water supply and damage a wide variety of organisms. Any debris or chemicals from household gardens, driveways, yards, and streets can be wash into the storm drains.

Pesticides can pollute the waterways. Always avoid pouring leftover pesticides down the sink, toilet, or storm drain. Pesticides may interfere with the operation of wastewater treatment systems or pollute the waterways. If pesticides reach the waterways, they may harm fish, plants, and other living things. Several organisms are harmless and even valuable to the ecosystem.

Small amounts of pesticides can be toxic to aquatic life. Aquatic plants and animals need oxygen and clean water to survive. Household wastes can enter the waterways through storm drains and negatively impact the water quality by decreasing oxygen reserves and contaminating the water.