

HOW TO READ A LABEL

A label is a legal document that we as pesticide applicators are legally bound to understand and follow. We must read each label completely and understand the label completely in order to perform our jobs legally and safely. Misunderstanding label directions or misusing pesticides can cause a variety of potential health and legal problems.

Legally you must read the label **EACH and EVERY** time you use a pesticide product. To help you read the label we will review the items each label will tell us. **The following information must be on every label:**

1. Name and Address of the formulator
2. Product Trade Name; The product trade name is frequently NOT the same as the "active ingredient name.
3. List of all Active Ingredients, as well as solvents, and the percentage of each by weight.

Official common name: is the well known name accepted by the Pesticide Regulation Division of the EPA. The law requires that the officially approved common name NOT the chemical name appear in this section of the label. Examples would include chlorpyrifos and carbaryl.

Chemical name: a scientific name telling the contents or formula of the actual chemical compound. When the common name is not available or non existent, the chemical name is used.

4. EPA Registration Number: Identifies the company which formulated the material.
5. Signal Words: - Hazard signal word indicating level of oral toxicity;
Danger LD50 of 0 to 50
Warning LD50 of 51 to 500
Caution LD50 of 501 and higher
6. Hazard Statement: Indicates precautions to observe to prevent injury to the environment, and non target animals.
7. User Protection: Protective equipment and precautions.
8. Storage Information: Specific criteria for storage of the product to protect it from damage or degradation.
9. Disposal Instructions: How to dispose of empty containers or unused product.
10. First Aid Statements: Both first aid measures and poison control information for physicians.
11. Directions for Use: Lists specific pests the product may control, sites of application, (some products may be used in many sites, but may only be used to control certain pests in certain sites!), when and where to apply the product, how much to use, and other use information.
12. Environmental Statements: Warnings as to the possible effects and damages the product could cause to fish, waterways, and other environmental concerns, should the product be released unintentionally.
13. Net Contents of Container:

The label is the law. You must thoroughly understand and follow the label. If you have a question, read the label! Too often applicators will ask their supervisors, can I use product X to control a particular pest. **READ THE LABEL!!!!**

- A pesticide may be used at a lower percentage dilution rate than suggested by the label, but you may NEVER use a higher percentage dilution rate than prescribed by the label.