

## PESTICIDE SIGNAL WORDS

**Caution, Warning** and **Danger** are signal words placed on product labels to alert consumers to the relative toxicity of the products— *Caution* being the least toxic and *Danger* being the most toxic. These signal words, however, pertain only to the acute or immediate hazard of the product. Labels do not provide information about the chronic or long-term hazards to humans, animals or the environment. For example, nothing on the product label tells you whether a product contains a chemical suspected of causing birth defects, kidney or liver damage, cancer, lung disease.

City of Agoura Hills

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CITY OF AGOURA HILLS

***BACKYARD  
CONSERVATION  
IT'LL GROW  
ON YOU***

***PEST MANAGEMENT.....  
THINGS TO CONSIDER....  
IN YOUR YARDS.....***



**Tel: 818-597-7337**

# PESTICIDES AND WATER QUALITY

**Did you Know that ?** Even when applied according to label directions, pesticides make their way into our waterways, air, rain and fog. Even small amounts of pesticides can be lethal to marine life, birds and other life forms. It doesn't take much of some pesticides to affect wildlife and water quality. Consider this: Just one granule or seed treated with diazinon, a common household pesticide, is enough to kill a small bird and one drop of diazinon in two backyard swimming pools is enough to kill the "water flea."

**So what can we do?** Instead of relying on conventional pesticides as our first line of defense against a pest, consider them as a last resort.

Look for safer and effective alternatives for preventing and managing pest problems in your home and garden

Choose a less-toxic product such as insecticidal soaps and horticultural oils and boric acid. Use only the amount needed per the instructions. Be wise with the Pesticides that you use.



**We all work together in doing our part**

## IF YOU MUST USE PESTICIDES

Identify the pest and the afflicted plant, then choose a product labeled for use on that pest and plant. Not all



**Lady bugs are nice to have around**

pesticides are effective against all pests. Aerosols may be the worst option. They disperse chemicals in a way that increases the risk of exposure to unintentional targets including beneficial in-

sects, birds, pets and your family. Choose the least-toxic product, Baits and traps are safer options. Buy ready to use products in-

stead of concentrates. An undiluted pesticide that requires mixing is more hazardous than one that is already diluted. Read the label and use only the amount recommended to do the job. More is not better.

## BENEFICIAL INSECTS

Many home and garden bugs are considered "beneficial" - meaning they are actually helpful and can keep undesirable troublemakers under control. For example:

\*One lady bug can eat 5000 aphids in its lifetime.

\*Dragonflies can eat 300 mosquitoes in a day.

\*One lacewing larva can eat 60 aphids in an hour.

To see photos and learn more about beneficial insects, visit the University of Calif.'s website on Natural Enemies at [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/NE/index](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/NE/index)

## STORING PESTICIDES:

Store pesticides in their original containers, in a place that cannot be accessed by children or pets, a high shelf in the garage works well.. Never remove the labels. Clearly mark containers, applicators and utensils used for mixing or applying pesticides and store them with the pesticides. Never use them for any other purpose. Never leave outside.

## DISPOSAL OF PESTICIDES:



Unwanted pesticides should be brought to your local household hazardous waste collection program. It is illegal to throw into the trash in spite of what the label says.. Never dispose of pesticide-tainted water in any indoor or outdoor drain.

Though indoor drains flow to treatment plants, pesticides can pass right through the plants and enter local waterways. Water used to rinse out a sprayer or applicator should be applied like a pesticide. In most communities outdoor drains flow directly to local waterways. Never use or give away any pesticide that is no longer available in the marketplace such as chlordane, DDT, and chlorpyrifos (Dursban). Please visit the city's website at [www.ca.agourahills.ca.us](http://www.ca.agourahills.ca.us) for the next time and location of the Household Hazardous waste and e-waste collection events.

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