



# Safe Use & Disposal of Pesticides

**Pesticides are designed to be toxic to the pests they target – insects, weeds, and other unwanted home and garden invaders.** Always read pesticide product labels carefully and follow all directions on proper use, storage, and disposal of empty pesticide containers. Product labels are your main source of information on how to use a product safely and legally. They include guidelines needed to protect you, your family, and pets. The only allowable way to dispose of unused pesticides is through a household hazardous waste collection site. For the site nearest you in San Diego County call 1-877-713-2784 .

## **If you must use pesticides, follow these tips to reduce pesticide effects on your local waterways:**

- Identify your pest problem and choose the least toxic pesticide that targets your pest and achieves the results you want. If you need help identifying the least toxic pest control method, contact your University of California Cooperative Extension office.
- Determine the right amount of pesticide to purchase. Purchasing exactly the amount you need for the application eliminates the need for storing unused pesticides.
- Use spot treatments whenever possible.

### **Outdoors**

- Avoid overwatering after applying pesticides. Never let pesticide runoff flow into storm drains.
- Do not apply pesticides outdoors when rain is forecast or when it is windy.
- Avoid applying pesticides on paved areas.

### **Indoors**

- Avoid applying pesticides in or near floor drains or sinks.
- Avoid applying pesticides on areas that will be washed or mopped with water, or where food is prepared or stored.

## When using and storing pesticides take these precautions:

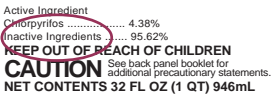
- Always wear a long-sleeved shirt, pants, and eye protection, and other equipment suggested on the label.
- Store products tightly capped in a locked cabinet out of reach from children and pets.
- Always keep pesticides in their original container.
- Know where to call for help in an emergency!

## Pesticide disposal:

- If you cannot use up your pesticides, fertilizers, and weed killers, give them to a friend who may need them.
- Sewage treatment plants are not designed to treat for certain toxic pesticides like diazinon and chlorpyrifos – dumping pesticides into the stormdrain or down the sink is never an option.
- The only allowable way to dispose of unused pesticides is through a household hazardous waste collection site. For household pesticide disposal information for San Diego County, call 877-713-2784.

## Finding active ingredients on a pesticide label:

Pesticide labels are required by law to show the active ingredient and its percentage. Minimize or avoid the use of products that contain diazinon and chlorpyrifos – these materials are polluting our waterways. Always read the label before you buy!



Active Ingredient  
Chlorpyrifos ..... 4.38%  
Inactive Ingredients ..... 95.62%  
**KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN**  
**CAUTION** See back panel booklet for additional precautionary statements.  
NET CONTENTS 32 FL OZ (1 QT) 946mL

Use **NON-CHEMICAL** methods & **LEAST TOXIC** pesticides. **WHY?** Runoff from around your home and garden carries water containing pesticides that pollute our streams, rivers, lakes and oceans.

Learn more about San Diego regional water quality at: [www.ThinkBlueSD.org](http://www.ThinkBlueSD.org) & [www.ProjectCleanWater.org](http://www.ProjectCleanWater.org).

For more pest information visit the University of California IPM website at: [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu) or the UCCE Master Gardeners at: (858) 694-2860, Mon - Fri, 9 am to 3 pm



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It's the water that connects us!