

## Always Read the Label First!

## PROTECT YOUR FAMILY, PETS, AND HOME

### Labels tell you:

- how to use a product in the most effective and safest manner.
- how to store and dispose of the product safely.
- how to give first aid.
- where to call for help or more information.

### BUY THE RIGHT PRODUCT & ONLY THE AMOUNT NEEDED

- Herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, and disinfectants are all pesticides.
- All products do not work in every situation. Before buying a product you must correctly identify the pest you are trying to treat. Labels tell you what a product is meant to do and how it should be applied. .
- Buy only what you need for that job and if you do have product left over pass it on to someone who can use it. Some products cannot be stored for extended periods of time. A larger container is not a better value if you cannot use it. This ends up wasting your money and also creates hazardous waste which may cost you to dispose of.



### FOLLOW ALL LABEL PRECAUTIONS

- **Pay attention to warnings.** Label warnings and directions tell you how to use the product safely and correctly.
- Always follow directions about wearing gloves or protective clothing.
- Understand when and how to apply the product and when it is safe for people and pets to reenter treated areas.
- Use only the amount indicated on the label. More is not better and can cause harm.
- Note how long to wait after applying a product before picking fruits and vegetables.

### SIGNAL WORDS

All pesticide labels use signal words. Signal words let you know how toxic a product is to your family and pets.

**Caution:** mildly toxic

**Warning:** moderately toxic

**Danger:** highly toxic



### KEEP PRODUCTS IN ORIGINAL CONTAINERS

- It's very dangerous to put products in food and beverage containers. Children think something in a familiar juice or soda bottle is good to drink.
- If you throw away the original container, you're throwing away important information you'll need in an emergency.
- Always store household cleaning and pesticide products away from where children and pets can access them.

### PREVENT HARM TO THE ENVIRONMENT

- Outdoor lawn and garden products that run into ponds, creeks, or other water supplies can contaminate drinking water and kill fish and birds.
- Never pour products down a drain. If you can't use all of product and can't pass it on to someone else, contact your local solid waste agency for disposal instructions. You may also call 1-800-CLEANUP, a private, national hotline for information about recycling and waste disposal.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT: MAINE BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL - 207-287-2731 - [thinkfirstspraylast.org](http://thinkfirstspraylast.org)

