

Make your home less attractive to pests



The following tips help keep pests from entering your home without the use of pesticides:

- **Keep your home clean.** A clean home will leave less places for pests to hide. Any spills, dirty dishes, or trash are food sources for pests, so clean them up immediately.
- **Keep your outdoor spaces tidy.** Keeping vegetation, shrubs, and wood mulch at least 18 inches away from your home will limit rodent and insect entry.
- **Keep entry doors flush with the floor.** Pests can sense temperature change and smells coming from inside. Add weather stripping to keep doors flush to the floor to eliminate pest entry.
- **Keep windows and doors screened.** Keep your windows and doors screened to restrict pest entry when enjoying the cool breeze.
- **Change outside lights.** Insects are attracted to light. Use yellow-tinted "Bug-Free" lights. This light is less attractive to insects and will limit the amount of insects that rest near your home.
- **Remove stagnant water sources.** Mosquitoes, transmitters of the West Nile virus, lay their eggs in stagnant water. Discarding stagnant water from containers like old buckets, cans, tires, and boats will reduce the chances of spreading the virus.



Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community



Environmental Protection &

Natural Resources

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Pesticide Safety at *Home*

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Pesticides and Your Home

Pesticides have been very beneficial to our society, but according to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, in 2004 alone, an estimated 71,000 children were involved in pesticide-related poisonings or exposures in the U.S. Unfortunately many people are unaware that certain household cleaning products are considered pesticides. Routine use of common household chemicals often lead individuals to forget how important it is to keep them away from children.

The following list includes some examples of common household products that are pesticides.

- Cockroach sprays and baits
- Insect sprays and repellents
- Termite control products
- Rat and rodent poisons
- Flea and tick sprays, powders, and pet collars
- Kitchen, laundry and bath disinfectants and sanitizers, including bleach
- Products that kill mold and mildew
- Lawn and garden products such as weed killers
- Swimming pool chemicals, including those that kill algae
- Repellents that keep deer, raccoons or rabbits away from your garden



Proper Pesticide Use

A pesticide is any substance or mixture of substance intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating pests. The use of a pesticide should always be a last resort to exterminating a pest problem. Using a pesticide alone will only alleviate a pest problem temporarily. To eliminate the problem permanently, follow the suggestions on the back of this brochure and use a pesticide only as needed.



If you choose to use a household pesticide product, the following steps should be taken:

- **Identify the pest,**
- **Decide how much pest control is necessary, and**
- **Choose the right pesticide product.**

READ THE LABEL

1. Ensure there is an EPA registration number on the product.
2. Identify active ingredients.
3. Note signal words that identify the level of hazard:



- Danger-Poison: highly poisonous.
- Danger: poisonous or corrosive.
- Warning: moderately hazardous.
- Caution: least hazardous.

4. Note directions for use and first aid instructions.
5. Follow storage and disposal instructions.
6. Determine the right amount to use.
7. Wear protective equipment before using.
8. Apply product in target area away from pets and children.

Proper Storage and Disposal

After applying a pesticide, always wash your hands. Since accidental exposure and poisonings have occurred in homes without children or pets, everyone should adhere to the following procedures when storing pesticides.

- Always follow storage instructions.
- Store pesticides high enough so they are out of reach of children and pets.
- Store flammable liquids outside of living areas and away from ignition sources such as a car or an outdoor grill.
- Never store pesticides near food, animal feed, or medical supplies.
- Never transfer pesticides to soft drink bottles or other containers. Always store them in original containers. Children or others may mistake them as something to eat or drink.
- Do not store pesticides in places prone to flooding or in places where they might spill or leak into wells, drains, ground water, or surface waters.

The best way to dispose of a pesticide is to use up the excess. If you are unable to use the excess, here are some helpful tips to follow in disposing pesticides

- Ask neighbors if they are able to use it.
- Contact the Environmental Protection & Natural Resources Division Hotline to find out information about the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program at (480) 362-7500.
- Never pour leftover pesticide down the sink, into the toilet, or down a street sewer or drain.
- It is not recommended to dispose of a less than full container of pesticide in your household trash. If you do ensure the cap is tightly secured and wrap the container in several layers of newspaper.