

Learn More



There is a wealth of consumer resources for homeowners to learn more about smart pesticide use as well as alternatives to pesticides. While a larger list is available at www.applyresponsibly.org, here are some of the more authoritative resources:

California Department of Pesticide Regulation

www.cdpr.ca.gov

California Stormwater Quality Association

www.casqa.org

Centers for Disease Control

www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm

National Pest Management Association

www.pestworld.org

National Pest Management Association - GreenPro

www.whatisgreenpro.org

University of California Integrated Pest Management Program

www.ipm.ucdavis.edu

US Environmental Protection Agency

www2.epa.gov/science-and-technology/pesticides-science

What is IPM

www.whatisipm.org



Apply Responsibly to Protect Your Water



Smart tips for homeowners about the proper use, storage and disposal of outdoor consumer pesticide products, including **pyrethroid** insecticides. If you use insecticides, please apply them responsibly to protect our water and environment.



About Pyrethroids

Pyrethroids (pronounced “pi-re-throids”) are ingredients found in many commonly used consumer home and garden insecticides for treating a wide variety of pests, including problems with mosquitoes, caterpillars, ants, spiders, wasps, cockroaches, aphids and other insect infestations.



Working with Homeowners

The Pyrethroid Working Group is a pesticide industry alliance that is promoting “Apply Responsibly”— a campaign to inform Californians in urban areas about environmentally responsible ways to handle, store and dispose of a wide range of home and garden pesticide products, including insecticides containing pyrethroids, in order to help protect California’s waters.

If you use insecticides in your garden or outside your house, please remember to apply them responsibly to protect our water and environment. “Apply Responsibly” also provides resources for integrated pest management.



PYRETHROID
WORKING GROUP



Protecting Our Water



Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Tips



Tips for Around the House



Storage & Disposal



Water is an essential natural resource that every Californian should help safeguard.

Many urban creeks in California receive water from residential areas. Chemicals used around the home, including home and garden pesticides, can move from where they are applied and run off through the storm drain system into these creeks.

By following a few simple rules for handling and disposal of chemicals, you can play an important role in helping prevent this type of runoff and in preserving California's water quality and environment.

The best defense to control pests includes a combination of preventive strategies with pesticide treatment when necessary, such as the following:

- Using barriers, screens and caulking helps to deny pests access to the home.
- Reduce pest infestations by eliminating what often attracts them or creates ideal breeding conditions – standing water, pet droppings, tree prunings or fallen fruit.
- Remove thatch buildup in lawns to ensure water soaks deeply into the lawn and prevents runoff.
- Only apply pesticides to the identified problem areas.
- If a product is labeled for “spot” and “cracks and crevices” you should only treat those areas.
- Understand that natural enemies such as lady bugs, spiders, parasitic wasps and pirate bugs help keep pest populations in check.
- Plant flowering and nectar-producing plants that draw natural enemies of pests.
- Vegetation, shrubs and wood mulch should be kept at least one foot away from structures.

Homeowners who apply pesticides outside of their homes should follow a number of important guidelines:

- Always read the entire label first and follow the directions.
- Avoid applying a spray on a windy day or when rain is forecast.
- When watering treated areas, don't overwater and don't allow water to run off into gutters, in-lawn drains or storm drains.
- Don't treat entire driveways, patios, sidewalks or similar outdoor surfaces.
- Sweep or blow granules that fall on porches, driveways and sidewalks back onto the treated area.
- Always use dry sawdust or kitty litter to soak up a liquid spill and then sweep it into a plastic garbage bag for disposal; don't use water to rinse or clean up a liquid spill.
- If you hire a professional pest control company, be sure the operator is licensed and certified according to state law and local ordinances. Have a conversation with them to understand what, if any, pesticides they will apply around your home. Tell them about any do-it-yourself products that you may be using as sometimes they can interfere with products the professional may use.

Dispose of your household pesticides properly.

- Dispose of unused pesticides according to the instructions on the product label.
- Never pour any leftover pesticides down the sink, toilet, sewer or storm drain.
- Don't stockpile pesticides. Buy only enough for one season.
- If you only need to treat a small area, consider ready-to-use pesticides rather than products you have to mix yourself.
- Always store pesticides in their original containers.
- Ensure containers are securely closed.
- Store in a safe place away from children.
- Do not reuse an empty pesticide container.
- Remember that an empty pesticide container contains residue and should also be handled carefully and according to the label.




QUICK TIP:
To find the pesticide drop-off location nearest you, visit www.applyresponsibly.org.