

Signal Word	Toxicity	Lethal (Oral)Dose (160 lb. man)**
Danger Poison*	Highly toxic	Few drops to 1 teaspoon
Warning	Moderately toxic	1 teaspoon to 1 Tablespoon
Caution	Low toxicity	1 ounce to more than 1 pint

* Skull and crossbones symbol included.
** Less for a child or person weighing less than 160 lbs.

The terms "active ingredient" and "percent" give you more precise information. The active ingredient is the material which controls the pest. Should product "A" have two percent active ingredient, and product "B" four percent, product "B" has twice the amount of actual pesticide and it will be twice as strong. Likewise, if product "C" has two pounds of active ingredient per gallon, it has twice the active ingredient of product "D" if it contains only one pound per gallon. **Remember**, this comparison applies only when two products have the **same** active ingredient. Other factors, however, may determine the concentration of the product best suited for your needs.

There are many other items of information you must study on the pesticide label before you can make an intelligent purchase:

1. **EPA registration number:** Look for this number on every product. It is your assurance that the product has been reviewed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and should be safe and effective when used as directed on the label. This means you must read the rest of the label before making your purchase.
2. **Directions for use:** Before you buy any pesticide, make sure the product is labeled for use **against the pest, on the plants or animals, in the environment** where you plan to use the product. A product may be labeled to control a pest on nursery plants, but not for the same pest on fruits, vegetables, or house plants in the home.
3. **Precautions:** Pesticides carry one of three precautionary words or phrases. The products most toxic to humans will be labeled **DANGER-POISON**. These products are extremely toxic in

the form found in the container, before they are diluted. Only a few drops could cause severe burns, serious health problems or even death.

STOP! READ THE LABEL



CAN KILL YOU

DANGER POISON

Products labeled **WARNING** are less toxic to humans, but extreme care must be exercised in their use, particularly before they are diluted.

The word **CAUTION** will appear on those pesticides which are the least harmful when used as directed. These products, however, can still cause serious injury or health problems and even death. You will notice that pesticides carrying even the least toxic precaution -- the word **CAUTION** -- often carry the statement, "**KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN**".

LD or lethal dose value is another term used in describing pesticide toxicity. An LD/50 indicates the amount of active ingredient in the pesticide formulation that would be lethal to 50 percent of a population of test animals. The LD amount is expressed in milligrams of toxic product per kilogram of body weight. Thus, a pesticide with an LD/50-50mg/kg is ten times more toxic than a pesticide with an LD/50-500mg/kg. Sometimes an LD/90, or other number, is given. An LD/90 indicates that the product would be lethal to 90 percent of the test animal population