

## Pets Treated With Pesticides

Shampoos, dips, powders, sprays and collars for use on animals to treat for fleas and other pests are also pesticides. Precautions should be taken when children play with or otherwise come in contact with treated animals. Some general tips to follow are:



- Follow the label precautions and obtain the label if someone else treats your pet.
- Keep children away from the pet until the pesticide has dried.
- Discourage children from touching flea collars. Wash hands or clothing after contact with flea collars.



## Pesticide Poisonings

Preventing pesticide poisoning is paramount! It is important, however, to prepare for potential accidents:

- Be aware of and follow precautionary statements on the pesticide product label, including statements of practical treatment and notes to physicians.
- Keep your physician's and local emergency numbers posted in your home in case of emergencies.



*Brochures in this series are available from NYSDEC, Bureau of Pesticides Management, telephone 518-402-8781, Albany, NY, or the DEC regional offices. Visit the NYSDEC website, <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/>*

## Store Pesticides Properly

Securely store pesticides so children do not have access to them:

- Store in the original container with the label; never use a different container.
- Store in a locked cabinet or room, out of reach of children.
- Keep storage area cool, dry and ventilated.
- Rinse pesticide equipment and store it in a secure area.

Dispose of unwanted pesticides or empty pesticide containers by following the directions on the label.

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*PEST MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SERIES  
#4 Pest Management and Children*



# Home Pest Management and Children

New York State  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
George E. Pataki, Governor      John P. Cahill, Commissioner

## Importance of Pest Management and Children

It is important to take precautions and be as protective as possible when managing pests where children, pets and other living beings are present. Children are of special concern because of their greater potential for exposure from play and other behavior patterns. This brochure offers tips and precautions on managing pests around children.



## Some Types of "Pests"

- Insects
- Weeds
- Rodents
- Fungus
- Molds
- Microorganisms



## Evaluate Your Pest Problem

If you have a pest problem, it is important to take time to evaluate it and decide how best to address it. Here are some tips:

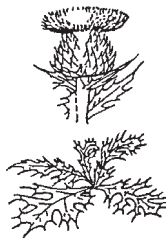
- Identify the pest.
- Determine the cause of the pest presence (e.g. moist wood).
- Consider how children and other living beings may use the area where the pest exits.
- Determine whether pesticides are needed or whether physical or mechanical means can be used to reduce or eliminate the pest problem.



## Managing Pests Without Pesticides

There are many non-chemical methods to control pests. A good source of information about this is Brochure #2 in this Series, "IPM in and around Your Home," which is available from the DEC. Some tips include:

- Exclude pests: use tight-fitting doors and screens, caulk where needed.
- Keep living areas clean, especially where food is prepared and eaten.
- Remove moisture sources: fix leaky pipes, wipe up spills.



## Share Information

- Learn about the pest from local expert sources such as Cornell Cooperative Extension.
- Share with your children what you have learned about pests.
- If a pesticide is used, or kept in the home, explain to your children the need for caution.



When applying insect repellents to children's skin and clothing, be sure to read and follow the precautionary statements on the label.



## If Pesticides Are Used

If you decide to use a pesticide, look for important information on the product label to help determine which pesticide is best suited to your needs. Some key points on the label include:

- The pest you want to treat and the site of infestation must be listed on the label of the pesticide you choose.
- Some products list life stages of the targeted pest (e.g., larvae).
- Products labeled for use outdoors should not be used indoors, unless indoor uses are listed on the label.



Also, keep in mind that we use many substances that we do not think of as pesticides, such as weed "killers," some household cleaners, mothballs and pool products.

You can find detailed information to help you better understand the labels in Brochure #3 in this Series, "Understanding Pesticide Product Labels," which is available from the DEC.

## Precautions When Applying Pesticides

When you mix and use pesticides, including some household cleaners, it is very important to take all precautionary measures. This is critical when children, pets and other living beings are present.

Some steps to take include:

- Read and follow precautionary statements on the product label.
- Ensure children, pets and others are not in the area to be treated.
- Remove toys or other objects that may be used by children or pets.
- Cover sandboxes, pools, cribs, and objects not easily removed.
- Limit children's and pet's access to treated area until label restrictions have expired.
- Close house and car windows before outdoor applications to prevent pesticides from drifting inside.
- Be careful not to track pesticides into the house, especially if children play on the floor.
- Wear rubber boots when applying pesticides and wash them after application.
- Remove shoes before entering the house, after an application.
- Wash clothing worn during pesticide application separately from other clothing.

**Apartment Dwellers:** If you live in a building where children live and play, additional steps to take are:

- Use caution in applying pesticides in areas where children play including hallways and doorways.
- Be aware of the ways you will be notified of pesticide applications by apartment management.

