Lawn Pesticides Meeting Kit



WHAT'S AT STAKE

Lawn pesticides help keep our yards looking healthy and free of pests, but they come with serious risks if not used carefully. These chemicals can harm people, pets, and the environment if they're applied incorrectly or without proper safety measures.

When pesticides get into the air, soil, or water, they can cause health problems ranging from skin irritation to more severe issues like respiratory trouble or poisoning. Protecting yourself and those around you means understanding the dangers and using pesticides safely every time.

WHAT'S THE DANGER

Using lawn pesticides might seem like a simple way to control weeds and bugs, but these chemicals can be dangerous if not handled properly. Pesticides contain substances designed to kill or repel pests, but those same chemicals can also harm people, pets, and the environment when used incorrectly.

Chemical Exposure Risks

When pesticides are sprayed or spread, tiny droplets or dust can get on your skin, in your eyes, or be breathed into your lungs. This can cause skin rashes, eye irritation, coughing, headaches, dizziness, and in some cases, nausea or vomiting. Some pesticides contain ingredients that can cause long-term health problems with repeated exposure.

Environmental Damage

Pesticides don't just affect the pests—they can harm pollinators like bees, birds, fish, and other wildlife. If pesticides wash into storm drains, rivers, or groundwater, they can contaminate drinking water or disrupt entire ecosystems. This is especially risky after heavy rain or when pesticides are applied near water sources.

Improper Application and Storage

Using more pesticide than the label recommends doesn't make the job faster—it just increases the chance of harm. Spraying on windy days can carry chemicals into places they're not meant to be. Storing pesticides in unlocked cabinets or near food and water can lead to accidental poisonings, especially for children and pets.

Common Causes of Accidents

- Skipping protective gear like gloves and masks
- Ignoring weather conditions that spread pesticides beyond target areas
- Not reading or following the label instructions carefully
- Leaving pesticides accessible to curious children or pets

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Using lawn pesticides safely isn’t just about following rules – it’s about protecting your health, your family, and the environment around you. These chemicals can be tricky, so you need to be careful every step of the way.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Safe Handling

Wearing the right gear and handling pesticides properly reduces your risk of exposure.

- Always wear chemical-resistant gloves, long sleeves, long pants, and closed-toe shoes.
- Use safety goggles to protect your eyes from splashes or spray drift.
- Wear a mask or respirator if spraying or working in poorly ventilated areas.
- Avoid eating, drinking, or smoking while handling pesticides.
- Wash your hands and any exposed skin thoroughly after use.
- Remove and wash protective clothing separately from regular laundry.

Read the Label and Follow Instructions Exactly

The pesticide label is your safety manual. It tells you what to use the product for, how much to apply, and when and where it’s safe to use. Pay close attention to warnings and precautions. Don’t guess or improvise – even small mistakes like applying too much or spraying on the wrong day can cause serious problems.

Store Pesticides Safely and Securely

Keep pesticides in their original containers with labels intact. Store them in a locked cabinet or shed that’s cool and dry – away from children, pets, food, and water supplies. Never transfer pesticides into unmarked containers like soda bottles; that’s an accident waiting to happen.

Mix and Apply Carefully

When you mix pesticides, do it outdoors or in well-ventilated areas. Use the right tools and measure carefully – no guessing! Clean your tools and equipment thoroughly after use, and don’t pour leftover pesticides down the drain or onto the ground.

Wash Up and Change Clothes

After handling pesticides, wash your hands, face, and any exposed skin with soap and water. Take off your protective clothing and wash it separately from your family laundry. This keeps chemicals from spreading around your home.

Dispose of Pesticides Properly

Don’t just toss empty containers or leftover product in the trash. Follow local regulations for disposal – many communities have hazardous waste collection programs. Proper disposal helps protect the environment and keeps others safe.

FINAL WORD

Lawn pesticides are powerful tools that need careful handling. Always follow instructions, wear protective gear, and keep your family and pets safe. When used properly, pesticides protect your lawn without risking health or the environment.
