

## GLOSSARY

**DPR = Department of Pesticide Regulation**

**FIFRA = Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act**

**IPM = Integrated Pest Management**

**MSDS = Material Safety Data Sheet**

**PCO = Pest Control Operator**

**PMP = Pest Management Professional**

**U.S. EPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency**

**Active ingredient.** The ingredient in a pesticide product that kills the pest. Some products contain two or more active ingredients.

**Allergen.** A substance, such as cockroach droppings or pet dander, that can cause an allergic reaction. When the immune systems of sensitive individuals recognize these substances as foreign or dangerous, they may have an allergic reaction.

**Allergic reaction.** An overreaction of the body's defense or immune system to an allergen. Allergic reactions can include hives, breathing difficulties, sneezing, itchy and watery eyes, rapid loss of blood pressure or loss of consciousness.

**Acute toxicity.** See **Toxicity** on page 30.

**Antimicrobial pesticide.** A pesticide used to kill microbial pests such as viruses, bacteria, algae and protozoa. Antimicrobials are used to disinfect or sanitize. Fungicides are pesticides that target fungal diseases of plants.

**Asthma trigger.** Allergens and irritants that can initiate an asthma attack. Triggers include pollen, mold, house dust mites and cockroach particles.

**Beneficial organism.** A living thing that provides benefits to humans—for example, an insect that reduces pests by feeding on them (otherwise known as a predator). A ladybeetle reduces pests by feeding on them. Honeybees are also beneficial because they provide honey and help pollinate foods that we eat.

**Broadcast.** To broadcast a pesticide is to cover a large area with sprays or granules. Spot spraying is a more restrictive way to apply a pesticide than broadcast spraying.

**Chronic toxicity.** See **Toxicity** page 30.

**Endocrine disruption.** Changes or disruption of the endocrine system of humans and wildlife caused by certain chemicals. Endocrine disruptors are chemicals that disrupt the endocrine system of humans and wildlife.

**Exempt pesticide.** Certain requirements of the Healthy Schools Act (record keeping, written notification and posting) do not

apply to products used as self-contained baits or traps; gels or pastes used as crack-and-crevice treatments; pesticides exempted from regulation by U.S. EPA; or antimicrobial pesticides, including sanitizers and disinfectants.

**Exempt pesticides by U.S. EPA.** Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act [**FIFRA**] Section 25(b), the U.S. EPA exempts pesticides from registration if they contain certain active ingredients. These are primarily food-grade materials such as mint oil, clove oil and sodium lauryl sulfate (derived from coconut and commonly found in shampoos and detergent). Types include: bait stations and sticky traps.

**Exposure.** Contact with a substance through different routes such as the skin or eyes, inhalation or swallowing.

**FIFRA.** The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act is administered by the U.S. EPA and a corresponding agency in each state. (In California, the U.S. EPA equivalent is DPR.) FIFRA is the framework from which pesticides are regulated nationally and in every state.

**Hardware cloth.** Stiff metal screening often used to seal house vents. It resembles chicken wire, except that the holes of hardware cloth are smaller and square, and the wire used is a thicker gauge.

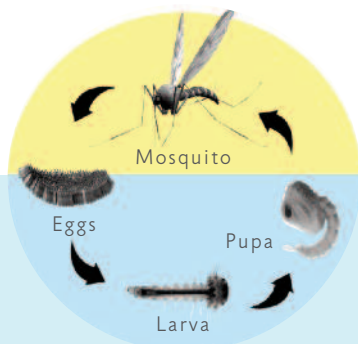
**Healthy Schools Act.** In January 2001, the Healthy Schools Act put into place right-to-know requirements such as notification, posting and record keeping for pesticides used at public schools and child care facilities. In January 2007, the law expanded to protect children in private child care facilities.

**Illegal pesticide.** A pesticide that's either not registered in California, or is registered but repackaged. It's best to purchase pesticide products in stores, not at flea markets or on the Internet. Avoid using a pesticide that's been stored for a long time. It may have lost its registration, meaning that it's now illegal to use.

**Inert ingredient.** An ingredient in a pesticide product that does not contribute to killing the pest. Inert ingredients can include water, clay and solvents.

**Infestation.** The presence of pests such as rodents or cockroaches. Sometimes the pests themselves cannot be seen, but you'll notice the damage they cause (e.g., gnawing) or evidence they've left (e.g., droppings).

**High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) vacuum cleaner.** A special vacuum cleaner that can remove very small particles from floors, window sills and carpets.



Mosquitoes take about seven days to complete their life cycle. The first three stages, eggs, larva, and pupa, are aquatic. Therefore, the best way to prevent mosquito breeding is to remove stagnant water.

**Life cycle.** The different stages of growth and development of a living organism. Individual life stages may be spent in different environments or feeding on different resources. For example, immature mosquitoes live in water and feed on bacteria and algae, while adult female mosquitoes fly around looking for blood. Knowing this about mosquitoes can help you focus on managing the immatures so very few of them develop into adults. Understanding the life cycle of a pest will help you develop an effective management strategy.

**Material safety data sheet (MSDS).** A form that contains information about the properties of a particular substance, intended to provide workers and emergency personnel with ways to handle or work with that substance in a safe manner. The MSDS includes information on the substance's health effects, toxicity, first aid, storage, disposal, protective equipment and how to handle accidental spills. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires that the MSDS for any potentially harmful substance handled in the workplace must be available to employees.

**Microfiber.** A fine synthetic fiber woven into cleaning cloths and lightweight mops that are ultra absorbent and use less cleaning solution. Microfibers have a positive charge. Dust, dirt and microbes are not only attracted to the microfiber's positive charge, but are held tightly and not redistributed around the room.

**Monitoring.** Checking the status of a pest infestation on a regular basis, often done with sticky traps. For example, you might monitor a cockroach infestation with special sticky traps for roaches and look at them every few days. You can then note numbers and whether you're catching immature roaches (see 39 for a sample *Pest Monitoring Log*). As an essential part of IPM, monitoring helps you know when to treat or whether you should treat at all.

**Neurotoxic.** Poisonous to the brain, nerves or nerve tissue.

**Nonexempt pesticide.** Sprays, foggers, and pellets or powder

(if uncontained) are nonexempt pesticides. If these types of pesticides are used, centers must comply with the Healthy Schools Act by record keeping, providing written notification and postings.

**Pest Management Professional (PMP).** The people formerly known as exterminators. For several years they've gone by the title of Pest Control Operator or PCO, and many still use that name. More recently there's been a national trend to change the job title to Pest Management Professional.

**Pesticide resistance.** When pests survive exposure to a pesticide, they may pass this ability on to their offspring. Over time, pests often become resistant to a pesticide and different pesticides must be substituted to kill the pest.

**Registered pesticide.** Pesticide products are thoroughly reviewed by the federal government (U.S. EPA) before being sold or used. In California, pesticide products must go through a strict approval process with DPR, including review of the product's toxicology, how it behaves in the environment, its effectiveness against targeted pests, its hazards to nontarget organisms, fish and wildlife, and how it affects workers. Pesticides that pass this scientific, legal and administrative process are granted a license (that is, are registered), which permits their sale and use according to requirements set by DPR to protect human health and the environment.

Confused about the term exempt pesticide? See **Exempt pesticide** on page 29.

**Risk.** A combination of how toxic (poisonous) a substance is and one's exposure to it. (Risk = toxicity x exposure.) Exposure to a pesticide usually depends on its placement and how likely it is to cling to surfaces or evaporate.

**Toxicity.** The quality or degree of being poisonous. Your reaction to a toxic substance depends on the dose of the toxin, and your exposure and susceptibility (sensitivity). When a substance has **acute toxicity**, it causes harmful effects within a short period following a dose or exposure, usually 96 hours or less. Effects include sudden eye irritation, breathing problems, stomach pains and rashes. With **chronic toxicity**, the effects are delayed, possibly for years. Examples include birth defects, cancer and hormonal disruption. Allergic effects (see **Allergic reaction**) are sometimes considered a separate category, and they include asthma, lung irritation and rashes.

**Trade name.** A product name. There are many types of pesticides that manage specific pests. Each pesticide can have different trade, or product, names.