HOW TO READ A PESTICIDE LABEL

Read the label of any pesticide to identify the name, ingredients, directions, and potential harmful effects on children and staff. The following is a quick overview of key things to look for on the label:

- **Precautionary statements** describe potential harmful effects to people, animals or the environment.

- The **Restricted Use Pesticide** tells you only certified pest management professionals may use this product.

- The **product or brand name** is prominently displayed on the front label. Brand names are different from active ingredients.

- The **signal words** such as Caution, Warning, Danger, or Danger–Poison refer to the short-term or acute effects of the active ingredient.

- The **active ingredient** is the chemical that kills the pest.

- Inert or other ingredients do not directly kill the pests, but instead help the active ingredients work. They may be harmful.

- The first aid section tells you what to do if the product is swallowed, breathed in (inhaled), or has made contact with the skin or eyes.

- The **storage and disposal** instructions tell you how to store and dispose of leftover pesticides.

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For more information on reading a pesticide label, see the EPA "Read the Label First" website: [www.epa.gov/pesticides/label/](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/label/)