



California Master Gardener Program
**POLICY ON PESTICIDES AND RELATED
CHEMICALS:
USE BY MG VOLUNTEERS**
University of California Cooperative Extension



I. SCOPE OF POLICY

- A. This policy includes only the use of registered pesticides labeled for home and garden use. The intent is to ensure that pesticide usage conforms to label directions.
- B. For experimental use of pesticides, please see the ANR Administrative Handbook, Section 281 (reference <http://danr.ucop.edu/admin-handbook/200/281%20Pesticides.pdf>).

II. DEFINITIONS

A. Pesticide

A “pesticide” is any chemical or biotic agent used or intended for use for pest control. Pesticide includes any substance, or mixture of substances, that is intended to be used for defoliating plants, regulating plant growth, or for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest that may infest or be detrimental to vegetation, humans, animals, or households or be present in any agricultural or nonagricultural environment whatsoever.

B. Pest Control

Pesticide applications that are made for pest control purposes rather than research purposes must be made in accordance with California registered labels and all applicable laws and regulations.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES OF UCCE MGP STAFF AND MG VOLUNTEERS

A. UCCE MGP Staff Responsibilities

It is the duty of the UCCE County Director and UCCE MGP staff to provide a safe work environment and training to persons volunteering under their direction. Training must include information on pesticide hazards and safety as well as laws and regulations applicable to all activities they may perform. The UCCE MGP staff is responsible for ensuring that pesticides are used in accordance with state and federal laws, regulations, and label requirements. The UCCE MGP staff shall

make their MG volunteers aware of the hazards of the chemical applications prior to any handling of these materials. UCCE MGP staff shall use the pesticide label as a guide when conducting MG volunteer training.

IV. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

A. Entry After Application

Re-entry into a treated area is not allowed unless the labeling directions for restricted-entry activities are followed. Many home use product labels do not provide information on restricted-entry, meaning there is no waiting period.

B. Posting Treated Areas

Home and garden products typically do not require posting. Pesticides that require posting are those that require professional application by a Qualified Applicator who is responsible for posting the treatment area. If posting is required, areas to be treated must be posted within twenty-four (24) hours prior to application with signs indicating the proposed date and time of application and the active ingredient to be applied. Posting signage must be removed within three (3) days after the end of the restricted-entry interval and before any entry prohibited during a restricted-entry interval.

C. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Home and garden use products require the following PPE for any treatment:

1. Long-sleeve shirts and long pants.
2. Eye protection.
3. Chemical-resistant gloves.
4. Closed-toed shoes.
5. Any other PPE required by the label.

D. Environmental Considerations

1. If pesticides must be used, avoid their use in areas where water may run off and flow into storm drains.
2. Do not apply when rain is forecast or when windy.
3. Avoid applications over paved areas.

4. For indoor applications, do not apply in or near floor drains or sinks or areas that will be washed or mopped with water or where food is prepared or stored.

E. Use and Storage

1. Keep all pesticide products tightly capped or sealed and placed in a locked cabinet out of reach of children and pets.
2. Keep all pesticides in their original containers with labeling attached.
3. Maintain an inventory of pesticide products, with an annual review to identify and dispose of any unwanted or expired products.
4. Be aware of emergency procedures and know whom to call in case of an emergency.
5. No posting of storage area is required when all products are labeled “Caution.” However, if any products have a “Warning” or “Danger” label, the storage area must have signs visible from any direction of probable approach. Each sign must be of such size that it is readable at a distance of twenty-five (25) feet and contain the following information:
 - DANGER
 - POISON STORAGE AREA
 - ALL UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS KEEP OUT
 - KEEP DOOR LOCKED WHEN NOT IN USE

F. Personal Hygiene

1. Always wash your hands with soap and water after using pesticides.
2. Do not eat, drink, smoke, or put your fingers to the mouth when using pesticides.
3. Wash pesticide-contaminated clothes and gloves after use and in loads that are separate from other clothes.

G. Pesticide Disposal

1. The preferred method of disposal for excess diluted/mixed pesticides is to apply to plants or sites listed on the label in accordance with label directions and rates until the spray tank container is empty. Excess diluted pesticides may also be disposed at a household hazardous waste facility.
2. Empty containers of concentrated home use pesticides in the possession of a homeowner may be disposed of in the trash or offered for recycling if available. Empty containers of ready-to-use products may also be disposed of in the trash or offered for recycling if available.
3. Empty spray tank containers must be rinsed using the triple rinse method with the rinsate water used on the site as listed on the label.
4. Leftover diluted or concentrated pesticides must be disposed of at a household hazardous waste facility or as indicated under section G.1., above. (See UC Integrated Pest Management Program Pest Note No. 74126, *Pesticides: Safe and Effective Use in the Home and Landscape* available at <http://ucipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74126.html>.)

H. Instruction and Training

The UCCE MGP staff shall provide training for each MG volunteer handling pesticides that shall include:

1. The potential hazards involved for each pesticide used.
2. Safety procedures that must be followed.
3. Clothing and protective equipment that must be used according to the label.
4. Common symptoms of pesticide poisoning and ways poisoning can occur.
5. Applicable laws and label requirements.
6. Emergency medical care procedures and contacts.