

## ***Pest Control Tips***

### **What to know.**

The "chemicals-only" approach to pest control is only a temporary fix. A more common sense approach is needed for a long-term solution. It is called *Integrated Pest Management*. Plan your IPM strategy in this order:

1. **Physical controls:** Caulking holes, barriers, hand picking, traps
2. **Biological Controls:** Predatory insects; bacterial insecticides;
3. **Chemical Controls - Your Last Resort** Use these least-toxic products:
  - o Dehydrating dusts (silica gel), Insecticidal soaps, Boric acid powder, Horticultural oils, Pyrethrin-based insecticides, Insect Growth Regulators

### **You can help.**

#### ***Safe Substitutes For Pest Control***

- *For garden aphids and mites* - Mix 1 Tablespoon of liquid soap and 1 cup of vegetable oil. Add 1 teaspoon of this mixture a cup of water and spray. (Oil may harm vegetable plants in the cabbage family.)
- *For caterpillars* - When caterpillars are eating, apply products containing *Bacillus thuringiensis* to leaves.
- *For ants* - Place boric acid powder or hydramethylnon baits in problem areas, cracks, and insect walkways. It is a mild poison, so be sure it is inaccessible to children and pets.
- *For roaches* - Apply boric acid powder to cracks and entry points (see ants above). Place bay leaves on pantry shelves.

#### ***If You Must Use Pesticides***

- **Use a pesticide that is specifically designed to control your pest.** The insect should be listed on the label. Approximately 90% of the insects on your lawn and garden are not harmful.
- **Read labels!** Use only as directed. In their zeal to control the problem, many gardeners use pesticides at over *20 times the rate* that farmers do.

#### ***How Safe Is Your Pesticide?***

For information on pesticide safety, contact:

#### **Poison Control Center**

Prevention, Education  
1.800.582.3387

24-hour Hotline  
1.800.876.4766;  
1.800.972.3323 TDD (for  
hearing impaired)

[National Pesticide  
Telecommunications Network,](#)  
EPA-funded

24-hour Hotline: 1-800-  
858-7378

*Citizen's Guide to Pesticides,* [EPA](#)

Consumer Information  
Center  
P.O. Box 100 Pueblo, CO  
81002. (\$0.50)  
Request #426X.

National Capital Poison Center

[Web site](#)

### ***Pesticide Disposal***

- Household toxics - such as pesticides, cleansers, and motor oil - can pollute the ocean and poison groundwater if disposed of in storm drains or gutters.
- Rinse empty pesticide containers and use rinse water as you would the product. Dispose of empty rinsed containers in the trash.
- Always dispose of unused household toxics at a Household Hazardous Waste Facility located at 1059 W. Hawthorne Street. Call 441-2005 to make an appointment prior to taking materials to the facility.
- **Dumping toxics into the street, gutter, or storm drain is illegal!**

### **About Pests.**

#### ***Are Pests Taking Over?***

- There might be good reason! You may need to make some changes at home to get that long-term solution you're looking for.

#### ***Are you giving the bugs a great place to live?***

- Outside:
  - A moist, cool, protected environment. Bugs love: ivy, standing water, woodpiles, mulch.
  - Animal waste, rotting fruit, and debris provide the perfect breeding ground for bugs.
- Inside:
  - Easy access into your house.
  - Easy access to food and water.

#### ***Have you killed your pests' enemies?***

- Pesticides don't discriminate. They kill the good bugs along with the bad. And they kill birds, too.
- Encourage beneficial insects with a variety of flowering plants for year-round blooming.
- And you can buy beneficial insects.

**Tips for maintaining healthy plants.**

- A healthy plant can stand up to pests.
- Did you pick the wrong plant for your yard?

Choose plants that do well in your area

Choose disease-resistant varieties (even roses!).

- Is your plant getting the right amount of light?
- Does the soil drain well?
- Have you fed your plants lately?

Remember to clean up all spills when they happen! If building materials or other wastes get into a gutter, storm drain, or creek call the Public Works Department immediately at (707) 441-4192 Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For after hour emergencies call Police Dispatch at (707) 441-4044.