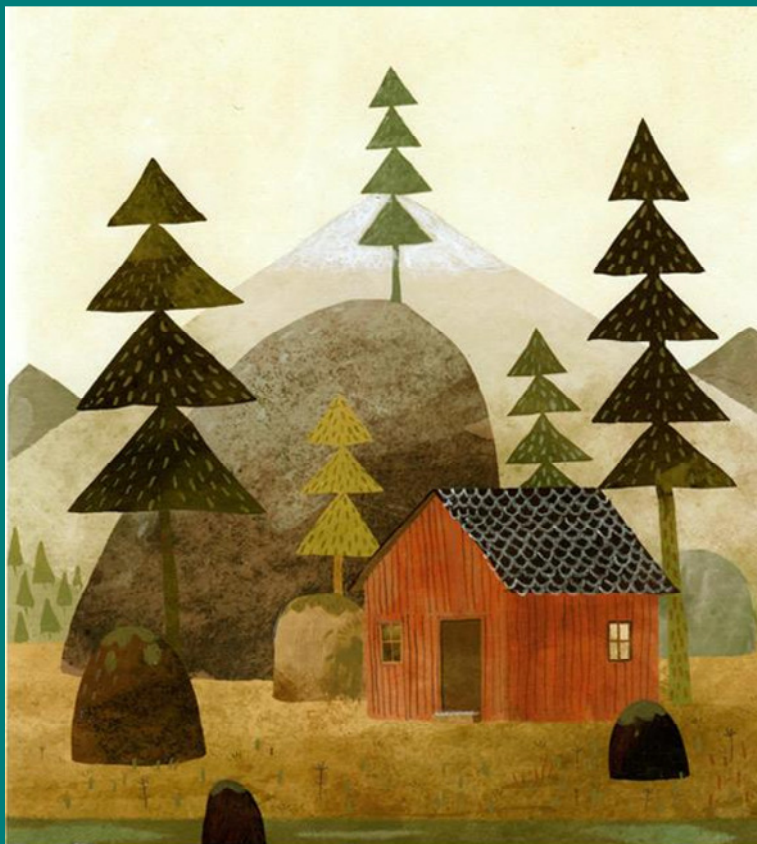


# Think Smart About Pesticides

*Reading a label can save you time, money, and protect water quality*



*Original artwork courtesy Chuck Groenink ([www.groeneinkt.nl](http://www.groeneinkt.nl))*

## Are there pesticides in the Clackamas?

Yes, pesticides have been found in water samples collected from the Clackamas River and its tributaries. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) evaluated pesticides in the mainstem of the Clackamas River and eight tributaries from 2000 through 2005. In all, 119 water samples were analyzed, detecting the presence of 63 different pesticide compounds. Results revealed that 97% of all samples had 2 or more types of pesticides present. Since 2005, water quality monitoring performed by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has also shown exceedances in water quality standards for certain pesticides in Clackamas River tributaries. Although the levels of pesticides did not exceed human health benchmarks, it is a warning sign that the health of our waterways is threatened. To read the full report, you can visit <http://pub.usgs.gov/sir/2008/5027>.

You can prevent more pesticides from reaching the river. Always follow the label's instructions, and dispose of the pesticide properly after it becomes outdated. **Remember to never put a pesticide down a toilet, sink, or storm drain. Keeping a buffer strip of plants between the area you're treating and any nearby water body.** Taking these steps will help keep our drinking water clean!

## Why is it important to read a label?

Pesticides can accumulate in land and run off with water, so it's difficult to pinpoint an exact source. To confound matters further, homeowners, golf course owners, agriculture users, and nurseries may use the same types of pesticides. This means **we all need to make sure that we're using chemicals properly**. Reading the label is absolutely essential to making sure that we keep as many pesticides as possible out of the river that provides us with drinking water, fishing, and recreation opportunities.

Reading a label can tell you a lot of important information, such as which pesticide to buy, how much pesticide to apply, and how to store the pesticide properly. Following these directions can help to keep you safe and save you money. For example, **some pesticides might have the same active ingredients even if they're sold under different brand names** — some companies simply charge more for brand recognition. **You can also avoid buying a product you don't need:** each product label will have a list of crops, intended use sites, and/or pests targeted. **The label will also help you determine how much pesticide to apply — using more than necessary can harm to your health, waste your money, and/or damage the watershed.** It is important to store chemicals properly to help to keep you safe: many pesticides are corrosive, combustible (flammable), or oxidizers (they help other substances to chemically combine with oxygen, often increasing combustibility). Finally, **the label is considered a legal document:** if you don't follow the instructions to the letter, you could be in violation of state and federal law.

## What if the label is missing?

It is not advisable to use any pesticide product if its precautionary language or directions for use are missing or illegible, and especially do not use an unknown product. However, if the product can be clearly identified, instructions for use can be recovered from the National Pesticide Information Retrieval System Web site at <http://ppis.ceris.purdue.edu/htbin/ppisprod.com>. **If you can't find out any of this information, you shouldn't use the pesticide** (this applies to other household chemicals, as well). If the chemical is unknown or **more than two years old**, follow proper disposal procedures. You can **contact Metro at (503) 234-3000 for more information** on the best way to dispose of the pesticide properly.

# How to decipher a pesticide label

The pesticide's **Intended Use**. This portion of the label gives you information about what pests the chemical targets.

The pesticide's **Active Ingredient** names the specific chemical that's effective. Many pesticides have different trade names, but the same active ingredients. The amount of active ingredient is indicated by percentage.

**Other Ingredients** were previously listed as "inert." These ingredients function as carriers for the active ingredients.

The **EPA Registration Number** is the number that is assigned by EPA when that product is registered. Each product registered by EPA undergoes several human health and environmental risk assessment studies.

The **EPA Establishment Number** indicates where the product was packaged. This information will be important in the event of a product recall.

**Trade name:** the "brand" of the product

**No more weeds!**  
Pro formula

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.  
**CAUTION**

**Herbicide**  
Nonselective Foliar Systemic  
Herbicide for Weed Control

**Active Ingredient:**  
Glyphosate  
N-(phosphonomethyl) glycine 28.3%

**Other Ingredients**  
71.7%  
100.0%

Contains 3 pounds of glyphosate acid in each gallon, in the diammonium salt form. See directions for use in attached booklet.

EPA Reg. No. 000-0000

EPA Est. 000-AA-000 AAA  
EPA Est. 000-AA-000 AAA  
Superscript identifies manufacturing site.

WNM 0000A-A0 0000

2.5 gallons  
US Standard Measure

**FIRST AID**

If in eyes	Flush eyes with plenty of water. Call a physician if irritation persists.
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Have the product container or label with you when calling a poison control center or doctor, or going for treatment.

**HOT LINE NUMBER**  
For 24-hour medical Emergency Assistance call 1-800-222-1222

**Precautionary Statements**

**Hazards to Humans and Domestic Animals**  
Causes moderate eye irritation. Avoid contact with eyes or clothing. Wash thoroughly with soap and water after handling.

**Environmental Hazards**  
Do not apply directly to water, or to areas where surface water is present, or to intertidal areas below the mean high water mark. Do not contaminate water when cleaning equipment or disposing of equipment wash water.

**Storage and Disposal**

**Container Disposal**  
Triple rinse (or equivalent). Then offer for recycling or reconditioning, or puncture and dispose of in a sanitary landfill or by incineration.

**CONTAINER IS NOT SAFE FOR FOOD, FEED, OR DRINKING WATER!**

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**  
**Applicators and Other Handlers Must Wear:**

- Long-sleeved shirts and long pants
- Chemical-resistant gloves
- Shoes plus socks

The **Signal Word** indicates how toxic the pesticide is. "Danger Poison" indicates high toxicity, "Danger" indicates a product has a high potential to severely irritate skin and eyes, "warning" signifies moderate toxicity, and products labeled "caution" may be harmful if swallowed or inhaled, and may irritate skin and mucus membranes.

**First aid** information will tell you how to react in case of an emergency. In Oregon, call 1-800-222-1222 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Be sure to keep the pesticide label close by, so that you can answer any questions the medical professionals may have for you.

The **Precautionary Statements** detail possible hazards to humans, pets, and the environment. Most pesticides should not be applied to water. If you do not follow these precautions, you could adversely affect your health, the health of our drinking water, and wildlife habitat.

The **Storage and Disposal** of pesticides is as important as using them properly. Follow the product label for all storage and disposal instructions. Always keep the pesticide in its original container, and **never** reuse a container for food or water. Contact Metro or your local solid waste hauler for information on proper pesticide disposal.

## Resources and References

Clackamas County SWCD  
[www.conservationsdistrict.org](http://www.conservationsdistrict.org)

Clackamas River Basin Council  
[www.clackamasriver.org](http://www.clackamasriver.org)

EPA's Consumer Labeling Initiative  
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/labels/consumer-labeling.htm>

Metro  
<http://www.oregonmetro.gov/>

National Pesticide Information Center at Oregon State University  
<http://npic.orst.edu/>

OR Dept. of Agriculture  
[www.oregon.gov/ODA/PEST](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PEST)

OR Dept. of Environmental Quality  
[www.oregon.gov/DEQ/WQ](http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ/WQ)

"Reading a Label." ODA Publication.  
<http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PEST/docs/pdf/ReadingaLabel.pdf>

"Storing a Pesticide." ODA Publication. <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PEST/docs/pdf/StoringPesticides.pdf>



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