

VECTOR CONTROL BRANCH
Hawaii Department of Health

PESTICIDES

Pesticides are chemicals used to kill insects, rodents, and other pests. The use of pesticides should be considered only as a temporary method of pest control. Ridding your home of pests by preventing their entry or removing their food, water and hiding places are better and more permanent control methods. Pesticides, while convenient and effective, are poisons and should be treated as such. **PESTICIDES ARE SAFE TO USE ONLY IF THE LABEL DIRECTIONS ARE FOLLOWED EXACTLY. DO NOT SPRAY ON FOOD, DISHES, OR PETS, OR ON PEOPLE OR WHERE THEY EAT.**

TYPES OF PESTICIDES

AEROSOLS:

Aerosols are the convenient "bug bombs" in pressurized metal containers that dispense pesticides at the push of a button. They are the preferred choice for household use because they require no mixing of chemicals and are diluted to such low concentrations that serious accidents from its misuse are greatly reduced. Despite the many brands on store shelves, there are basically only three types of aerosols.

- 1) Flying Insect Aerosols:** This type of aerosol dispenses pesticides in a fine mist that suspends in the air to contact and kill flying insects such as mosquitoes and flies. These aerosols will also kill cockroaches and other non-flying insects if they are sprayed directly on them. Flying insect sprays usually have a rapid paralyzing effect on insects and almost no residual effectiveness. Insects are usually killed only when directly contacted by the spray.
- 2) Ant and Roach Aerosols:** This type of aerosol dispenses pesticides in a coarse spray that can be applied on wall surfaces or into cracks and crevices. Ant and roach pesticides usually leave a long-lasting residue on sprayed surfaces that kill insects walking over them. **ANT AND ROACH SPRAYS SHOULD NEVER BE SPRAYED IN THE AIR TO KILL FLYING INSECTS BECAUSE THEY ARE MANY TIMES MORE TOXIC TO PEOPLE THAN FLYING INSECT SPRAYS.**
- 3) Specialty Aerosols:** Aerosols of this type are used either for special purposes, such as room foggers, or for specific pests, such as wasps or fleas. Label instructions must be carefully followed for each type of aerosol.

PESTICIDE CONCENTRATES:

Pest control on large areas, such as yards, usually require a concentrated form of pesticide that must be diluted with water before use. Pesticide concentrates are very hazardous in their undiluted form because they usually come in concentrations of 40%

or more. These concentrates are diluted to 1% or less when applied with a hand pump or garden hose attachment sprayer. Use gloves when handling concentrates and mix in well ventilated areas. **SAFE USE OF CONCENTRATES REQUIRES THAT YOU FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS EXACTLY.**

BAITS:

Baits contain pesticides mixed with food that is attractive to the pest. Rodents, flies, ants, cockroaches, and silverfish are some of the pests that can be controlled with baits. Labels must be carefully read, not only for proper use, but also to determine whether it will control the particular species of ant, cockroach, or fly.

ALL PESTICIDE LABELS ARE REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW TO TELL YOU:

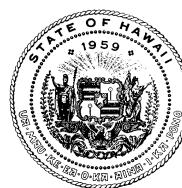
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|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. What pests it will control | 4. How much should be applied |
| 2. How pesticide should be applied | 5. The dangers of using the pesticide |
| 3. Where pesticide should be applied | 6. The safety precautions to be used |

CAUTION: *Certain pesticides and their solvents may cause respiratory irritation. Persons with respiratory diseases should consult their physicians before using any pesticide. IT IS A VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW IF PESTICIDES ARE NOT APPLIED EXACTLY AS THE LABEL DIRECTS.*

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