



## AAPCC NEWS RELEASE

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### **For Immediate Release**

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### **The American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) and the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) Provide Lawn and Garden Product Safety Tips**

**Alexandria, VA** –With summer in full swing, the [American Association of Poison Control Centers \(AAPCC\)](#) and the [National Pesticide Information Center \(NPIC\)](#) are teaming up to bring you essential safety tips while using pesticides. Additionally, AAPCC and NPIC remind everyone that expert medical advice is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the free Poison Help hotline, 1-800-222-1222. General questions about pesticides and risk can be directed to NPIC at 1-800-858-7378 from 8:00am – 12:00pm Pacific Time Monday through Friday.

"In 2016, about 81,500 pesticide exposures were reported to poison control centers across the United States. More than 75,000 of those exposures occurred at someone's home," said Stephen T. Kaminski, JD, AAPCC CEO and Executive Director. "While pesticides help us keep our gardens trim and those pesky summer bugs at bay, the incorrect use of pesticides can have harmful health effects. Luckily, NPIC and AAPCC have a few simple steps to keep you safe around these substances."

"Reading the pesticide label is the first, most important step," says Jeffrey Jenkins, Professor of Toxicology and Director of the National Pesticide Information Center. "We are proud of NPIC and AAPCC's combined efforts to enable the public's safe use of pesticides. Our past campaigns have focused on antimicrobial products and insect repellents, so we are excited to now turn our attention to outdoor home products."

You can reduce the risk of pesticide exposures for you and your family by taking a few simple steps before and after you use any lawn or garden products:

#### BEFORE YOU APPLY

- Read the label. Double check that the product targets the insect, rodent, or weed you want to control.
- Wait for good weather. Wind and rain can cause products to blow away or run off.
- Put on long pants, socks & shoes, long sleeves, and rubber gloves. The label may suggest additional protection like goggles or glasses.
- Remove toys and pet dishes from the yard.
- Keep kids and pets inside or away from the yard.

#### AFTER YOU APPLY

- Check that all lids are closed and tightly sealed. Store products up, away, and out of sight of children and pets.
- Store the product in its original packaging. Never transfer pesticides to empty food or drink containers.
- Do not allow children or pets back in the yard until the product has fully dried or dust settles.
- Take off the clothing you wore during application, and wash your hands.
- Follow disposal directions on the label.

#### NEED HELP?

If you have questions about a pest, are unclear about how to use or dispose of a product, or want to know more about potential risks to people or the environment, contact the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) at 1-800-858-7378 (Mon-Fri, 8am -12pm Pacific Time). They can help with questions about selecting, storing, using, or disposing of insect repellents, weed killers, and other pesticides. You can also visit the NPIC website at <http://npic.orst.edu/>.

If someone swallows, breathes in, or gets pesticide in the eyes or on the skin, call the Poison Help hotline 24/7 at 1-800-222-1222 to speak with an expert at your local poison control center.

#### Multimedia:

(Hyperlink to other relevant media)

(Hyperlink to social media regarding this)

[Poison Help Logo](#)

[NPIC Logo](#)

**Web:** [www.aapcc.org](http://www.aapcc.org)

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/AAPCC>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/aapcc/>

**Web:** <http://npic.orst.edu/>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/NPICatOSU>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/NPICatOSU/>

**Youtube:** <https://www.youtube.com/NPICatOSU>

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#### Contact

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### **About the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC)**

NPIC provides objective, science-based information about pesticides and pesticide-related topics to enable people to make informed decisions about pesticides and their use. NPIC is a cooperative agreement between Oregon State University and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. NPIC produces many types of [publications](#) including research papers, [fact sheets](#), [frequently asked questions](#), [annual reports](#), [outreach materials](#), and other resources available to the public. Click [here](#) to see a complete list of publications. Speak directly with an NPIC Pesticide Specialist at 1-800-858-7378 (8 am – 12 pm PT, Monday-Friday), or send a question via email to [npic@ace.orst.edu](mailto:npic@ace.orst.edu).

### **About American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC)**

AAPCC supports the nation's 55 poison center members in their efforts to treat and prevent drug, consumer product, animal, environmental and food poisoning. Members staff the Poison Help hotline at 1-800-222-1222 that provides free, confidential, expert medical advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year from toxicology specialists, including nurses, pharmacists, physicians and poison information providers. In addition, AAPCC maintains the only poison information and surveillance database in the United States, providing real-time monitoring of unusual poisoning patterns, chemical exposures and other emerging public health hazards. AAPCC partners with federal agencies such as HRSA, CDC, FDA and EPA, as well as private industry. **Be prepared for a poisoning emergency and download poison control's contact information today. Text "poison" to 797979.**