EPA Registration

Any pesticide legally used in the USA must be registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) before it goes into commerce. The EPA's main function is to register the pesticides, not to ensure safety.

A child in a household using home and garden pesticides is 6.5 times more likely to develop leukemia than one in a home that does not.

The EPA has registered over 85,000 different chemicals. If one is determined to be detrimental to humans or the environment it often takes many years before and if the product is pulled out of the market. Registration does not constitute safety or an approval rating by the EPA, in fact the EPA is clear that a pesticide manufacturer cannot state that a pesticide is safe by Federal Law. Registration with the EPA does not even guarantee that the chemicals have been fully tested for environmental and human health effects.

What can we do about it?

Preventing the need for pesticides is the best place to start. Management strategies include habitat modification, sealing and structural repairs, sanitation, biological controls and organic management of outdoor spaces. If a control measure is needed as a last resort, use the least toxic option.

Ask your local retailer to carry organic options, if they don't already. Look for products that are OMRI listed. This means they have met organic standards. Any pesticide should always be handled with care to reduce exposure.

Learn how to use an organic soil based approach for lawn and turf care. Not only is it safer for you, your children and the environment, but it is cost effective as well. Healthy soil means healthy turf, and more disease and pest resistance.

Speak to your city and school officials about using least toxic options for pest control and turf maintenance of our public areas. Are they using the safest methods possible? It is your right to inquire and obtain information about the methods and products being used.

Sources: Environmental Protection Agency, American Academy of Pediatrics, Beyond Pesticides

Visit our website for more information:

NonToxicCommunities.com

Non Toxic Communities

PESTICIDES 101

What do we know about the effects of the chemicals being used in our parks, schools and neighborhoods?

What are pesticides?

Pesticides are defined as "Any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest." Insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides are all examples of pesticide products.

How do they impact us?

Pesticides harm health. A growing body of evidence in scientific literature shows that pesticide exposure can adversely affect endocrine, neurological, immune, and respiratory systems in humans, even at very low levels.

Pesticides contribute to disease. Of the most commonly used pesticides, 19 are linked with cancer or carcinogenicity, 21 with reproductive effects, 13 are linked with birth defects, 26 with liver or kidney damage, 15 with neurotoxicity, and 11 with disruption of the endocrine or your hormonal system.

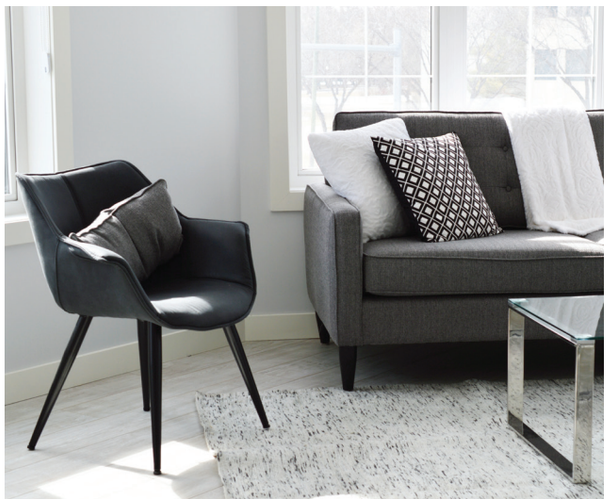
Children are more vulnerable than adults. Children are especially sensitive to pesticide exposure. Children take in more pesticides relative to their size and weight, are more physical in their environment, running, touching and playing outdoors, and their bodies and brains are still developing.

"…Children's exposure to pesticides should be limited as much as possible."

– American Academy of Pediatrics

Pesticides move from the application site. Pesticides do not stay put after application and can be transported over long distances fairly rapidly through wind and rain.

Scientific studies show that 2,4-D applied to lawns drifts and is tracked indoors where it settles in dust, air and surfaces and may remain for up to a year in carpets.



An analysis of preschoolers, ages 20 to 66 months, found that the children were exposed to indoor concentrations of pyrethroids, organophosphates and organochlorine pesticides which were detected in soil, dust and indoor air.

Samples from 120 homes, where elevated incidence of cancers are reported, find high indoor air and dust concentrations of carbaryl, permethrin, and 2,4-D.

Pesticides are not safe after application even when dry. Pesticide residues remain even after drying. Both inhalation and dermal contact are considered major routes of exposure to pesticides.

We are not exposed in isolation. Exposure to multiple pesticides, multiple pesticide ingredients or other toxic chemicals can change the way we are affected by them.

Multiple exposures can have a magnified effect greater than the individual chemical effects when added together. This is called a synergistic effect, or synergistic toxicity.

Pesticide exposures in the real world are not isolated incidents. Rather, they are a string of incidents marked by combinations of exposures. As a result, scientists have argued for years that toxic exposures to pesticides should be measured as they would normally occur, in combination with one another. Yet, current federal law does not require this type of testing for pesticides on the market, except in very limited instances.

Dose, as well as frequency, duration of exposure, sequence and timing are all factors in how a pesticide exposure may impact someone. Not all people are impacted the same. Individual susceptibility varies but is influenced by age, gender, health status, genetics, and lifestyle. Children and elderly people often have an increased susceptibility to chemicals.