



# Pesticide Use

Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions. Find more Toolbox Talks on the [Occupational Safety web page](#).

## General Information

Pesticides are used to control pests that cause damage to crops or carry diseases to plants, animals, and people.

## What are pesticides?

- Herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and rodenticides are all pesticides
- Pesticides are typically chemicals designed to repel or exterminate pests

## Proper Use

- Use pesticides as intended by the label instructions
- Do not use or handle pesticides unless you have completed EPA Pesticide Safety Training for Workers or Handlers.
- Follow all label instructions for required PPE
  - If pesticide use requires respirators, ensure proper cartridges are being used (black organic vapor combination cartridge/HEPA filters are common) and user has been trained and fit tested.
  - Eyewash stations should be present in areas of pesticide storage and use
- Wash hands thoroughly after handling pesticides, especially prior to eating or drinking
- Pesticides should be stored in a secure location to prevent unwanted access



## Are pesticides safe?

- Pesticides are commonly used in agricultural and residential settings.
- The highest risk with pesticide use is when handling concentrated product
- Pesticides are usually diluted prior to application, meaning the effects of exposure may be less significant



**Discussion Date:**

**Supervisor:**

**Participants:**