

Resources

Beyond Pesticides

202-543-5450
beyondpesticides.org

Advocates safe, healthy, living lawns and landscapes with the use of organic and least toxic practices and products

Environment and Human Health, Inc.

ehhi.org
Promotes human health through research, education, and public policy

National Pesticide Information Center

800-858-7378
npic.orst.edu
Provides objective, science-based information about pesticides and pesticide-related topics to enable people to make informed decisions about pesticides and their use

Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides

541-344-5044
pesticide.org
Protects the health of people and the environment by advancing alternatives to pesticides

Pesticide Action Network North America

415-981-1771
panna.org
Works to replace pesticide use with ecologically sound and socially just alternatives by linking local and international groups into an international citizens' action network

PLEASE NOTE: PRC does not endorse or recommend any of the groups or organizations listed in this brochure. Individuals seeking information or services from them should fully research their qualifications and capabilities as related to their needs.

In Partnership With

Allegheny County Health Department
achd.net/recycling

Armstrong County Recycling Center
co.armstrong.pa.us/recycling

Beaver County Department of Waste Management
beavercountypa.gov/Depts/WasteMgmt

Cambria County Solid Waste Authority
cambriarecycles.org

Washington County Planning Commission
co.washington.pa.us/177/recycling

PA DEP Recycling Hotline
800-346-4242

OUR MISSION: To lead and promote individual and collective actions to preserve Pennsylvania's environmental resources for each generation.



Working to protect the environment since 1939

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PRC EAST 3606 Providence Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073

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Safe & Healthy

Lawn Care



A guide to protecting your family from lawn and garden chemicals



Look around your home and you may discover as much as 100 pounds of “household hazardous waste” (HHW) stored in your basement, garage, kitchen, bathroom, and garden shed.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, an average home can easily accumulate this amount of cleaners, pesticides, paints, automotive fluids, and other products containing hazardous components. While such products are safe to use if proper precautions are taken, problems generally arise when you use, store, or dispose of products improperly.

Manage your HHW responsibly:

Shopping – Purchase the least toxic product available and estimate the quantity in advance to avoid leftover toxic materials.

Storage – Label all containers and keep all chemicals out of the reach of children and pets.

Nontoxic Alternatives – Make safe cleaning solutions at home from products such as baking soda, borax, and vinegar.

Collection Events – Gather products and drop off at a household chemical collection event.

All pesticides are inherently poisonous, and pesticide use cannot be made completely safe.



Did you know...

- All pesticides are poisons, and pesticide use cannot be made completely safe. Pesticides must be registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Please note that registration does not guarantee that the chemicals have been tested for human health effects.
- Pesticide residue remains on grass even when dry. Lawn pesticides can enter a body through the mouth, nose, eyes, and skin.
- Exposure to garden pesticides can drastically increase the risk of childhood leukemia and is linked to birth defects and certain types of cancer.
- According to the ASPCA, insect repellents that contain “DEET” can cause fatal neurological damage to dogs and cats.
- Nitrogen, phosphorus, and ammonia — all found in many fertilizers — contaminate water causing algal blooms, elevated toxins levels in waterways, and mass die-offs of fish and other aquatic life.
- Poison control centers receive approximately one call every 13 seconds concerning a suspected or actual human poisoning or exposure. More than 90% of these exposures occur in or around the home.

TOP TIPS for Safe Lawn and Garden Care

- 1. Dispose of Excess Toxic Materials**
Call the PA DEP Recycling Hotline at 800-346-4242 to learn about drop-off locations near you.
- 2. Feed the Soil**
Cultivate your lawn and garden by raking an inch of compost into the surface every spring and fall. Set your lawn mower to the highest setting; grass should be 3-4 inches high, which shades roots, conserves moisture, and reduces weeds.
- 3. Mow Smarter**
Leave grass clippings on the lawn to provide nitrogen and decrease by half the amount of commercial fertilizer required.
- 4. Reseed Annually**
Seed your lawn in late summer or fall with native grasses. Thick turf effectively controls weeds.
- 5. Control Pests Naturally**
Control common pests with applications of beneficial nematodes. Treat your lawn with organic corn gluten, which kills weed seeds and seedlings, and apply to established lawns in early spring.
- 6. Go Native**
Consider non-traditional grasses that may thrive better than traditional grasses.
- 7. Use Nontoxic Alternatives**
Purchase nontoxic alternative products or make your own at home from materials such as baking soda and vinegar.
- 8. Use Adequate Ventilation**
Be aware of the dangers of toxic fumes when using HHW in enclosed spaces such as garages and garden sheds.
- 9. Manage Materials Responsibly When Moving**
Do not leave any HHW behind in your old home. To find safe disposal options near you, call the PA DEP Recycling Hotline at 800-346-4242.

In case of accidental poisoning:

Pittsburgh Poison Center

412-681-6669 or 800-222-1222
24 hours/day, 7 days/week

Info about collection events:

Pennsylvania Resources Council
prc.org

Info about proper disposal:

PA DEP Recycling Hotline
800-346-4242

