

## If something goes wrong....

If a leak or spill occurs, clean it up immediately. Scatter sawdust, pet litter, or other absorbent material over the spilled pesticide.

Sweep up the absorbent material into a garbage bag.

Wash the area thoroughly with industrial-strength detergent and water.

Properly dispose of the contaminated absorbent material and wash water according to the product label.

The symptoms of pesticide poisoning may appear immediately after exposure or may take several hours or even days to develop.

For guidance, call the Poison Control Center at **(800-222-1222)**.

Call 911 for immediate assistance.



## Ontario-Wayne Stormwater Coalition Members

Town of Victor  
Town of Farmington  
Town of Macedon  
Town of Ontario  
Town of Walworth  
Village of Victor

Wayne County Highway Department  
Ontario County Highway Department  
Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District



[http/ www.owsc.org](http://www.owsc.org)

For more information, contact:

Ontario County SWCD  
480 North Main Street  
Canandaigua NY 14424

585-396-1450



## Pesticide Protections



Ontario-Wayne  
Stormwater Coalition

*Protecting Water  
Preventing Pollution*

## PESTICIDES AND WATER PROBLEMS

Pesticides and other chemicals are often seen as essential tools to maintaining a beautiful yard. However, pesticides used in landscaping contain chemicals which can migrate through the ground and be toxic to a number of organisms, including fish and invertebrates.

Improper application of pesticides can damage groundwater. When pesticides dissolve in storm water they infiltrate into groundwater, which can contaminate well water supplies or end up in surface waters.

Storm water runoff containing pesticides can also enter into water bodies through storm drains. The chemicals can collect and accumulate in the food chain, becoming more concentrated the further up the food chain they move.

Most pesticides do kill their target pests but they also kill beneficial organisms living in the soil, such as pollinators and pest predators, and pose health risks to wildlife.



**Above: Commercial Pesticide Applicator Required Signage.**

**Properly identify the pest** that you are attempting to control. Cooperative Extension staff will help you identify the problem pest and select appropriate control strategies.



Determine if you will treat the problem yourself or hire a professional licensed pesticide applicator.

**Use alternative nonchemical controls if you can.**

If you choose to treat the problem yourself with a pesticide, **purchase the least toxic pesticide** that will control the pest. Purchase a quantity of pesticide for immediate use only. Do not stockpile pesticide products.

**Read the label before purchasing and using the pesticide product.**

**Follow all label directions and safety precautions while using the product.** Wear protective clothing and safety goggles. Cover bird feeders and baths. Keep children and pets away. **Keep away from surface water or wells.** Be aware of possible wind drift. Bathe immediately after application, wash clothing separately.

**Keep a personal written record** of pesticide application. Records should include the date, time, pesticide brand name, formulation, rate applied, temperature and wind conditions, and location of the application.

## STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

**Store pesticides in original containers with labels attached and lids tightly closed.**

Lock chemicals out of reach and away from children, animals and irresponsible people. Label the storage cabinet.

Do not store chemicals near food, pet food or livestock feed.

Materials in containers should be stored in dry, cool areas. Protect chemicals from freezing; check the label for storage information. Do not store in a sprayer.

**Do not dump unused pesticide into a drain or toilet or onto the ground.**

Dispose of unwanted pesticides and empty containers at a Hazardous Waste Cleanup Day.

Improperly discarded pesticides and pesticide containers can be hazardous. Pesticide leaking from a container can injure sanitation workers and lead to environmental pollution. Empty containers can entice curious children and animals.

