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We're open from 8:00AM to  
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## Pesticides and the Environment

The environment includes all of the living and non-living things that surround us, including the **air, water, plants, soil** and **wildlife**. Pesticides can be helpful in dealing with pests in our environment such as controlling invasive plant species that threaten native habitats. Pesticides have **risks** to the environment too, especially when they are used improperly.



### Here are some tips to help minimize environmental risks when using pesticides:

- When pesticides enter our environment the ingredients and the **conditions** affect how long it will last, and where it will go.
- Read the **pesticide label**, including the "Environmental Hazards" section, and make sure you are following the directions to **minimize the risks** to the environment.
- Always **dispose** of unused pesticides properly.
- Consider adopting an **Integrated Pest Management (IPM)** approach to controlling pests. IPM practices are designed to have minimal impacts on the environment.
- When possible, try to use pesticides that are specifically designed for the pest you are trying to **control**, rather than broad-spectrum pesticides which are more likely to affect non-target organisms in the environment.

To learn more about pesticides and our environment visit these resources:

**[Air and Pesticides](#)**

**[Plants and Pesticides](#)**

**[Beneficial Insects](#)**

**Water and Pesticides**

**Soil and Pesticides**

**Pollinator  
Protection**

**Wildlife and Pesticides**

**Biochar and Pesticides**

**Backyard  
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If you have questions about pesticides in the environment, or any pesticide-related topic, please call NPIC at **1-800-858-7378** (8:00am - 12:00pm PST), or email at [npic@ace.orst.edu](mailto:npic@ace.orst.edu).

### **Additional Resources**

- **Envirofacts System Data Searches** - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- **Protect the Environment: At Home and in the Garden** - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- **Protect the Environment: At Work** - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- **Factsheet on Ecological Risk Assessment for Pesticides** - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- **Ecological Risk Assessment for Pesticides: Technical Overview** - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- **EPA Regional and State Environmental Agencies** - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- **Pesticide National Synthesis Project** - U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- **Office of Hazardous Material Safety** - U.S. Department of Transportation
- **Emergency Response Guidebook** - U.S. Department of Transportation / Transport Canada

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