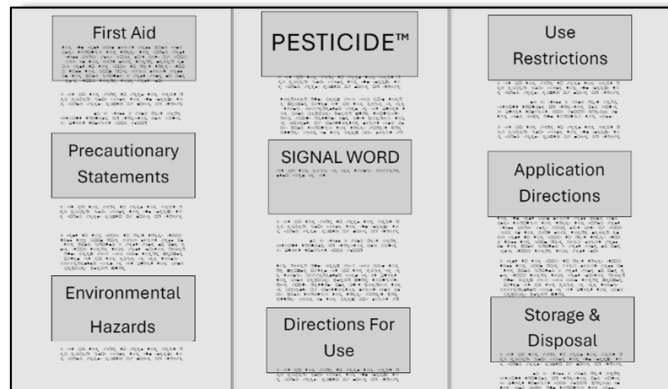


UNDERSTANDING A PESTICIDE LABEL

How to read pesticide label sections for safe use.

Understanding the Key Sections of a Pesticide Label

Pesticide labels are legal documents that provide crucial information for the safe and effective use of pest control products. Understanding each section is vital for all users or applicators. Remember, every pesticide and label is different so use this document as a guide but read the label entirely and if you have questions reach out to the ISDA or the manufacturer.



Product Name & Info

The **Product Name** is the most prominent identifier on the label, usually located at the top. It's the brand name under which the pesticide is sold. Following the product name, you'll find the **Ingredient List**, divided into:

- **Active Ingredient(s)**: The chemicals responsible for killing or repelling the pest, named by either a simple common name or a complex scientific name.
- **Inert Ingredient(s)**: These are other substances in the product that don't fight the pest, but may help with application, stability, or other functions.

Signal Word

The **Signal Word** indicates the acute toxicity of the pesticide. It's a critical indicator of potential hazards and risks to humans, wildlife, and the environment:

CAUTION	WARNING	DANGER	DANGER-POISON
Slightly Toxic: • If eaten • If absorbed through skin • If Inhaled • Causes slight eye or skin irritation	Moderately Toxic: • If eaten • If absorbed through skin • If inhaled • Causes moderate eye or skin irritation	Highly Corrosive: • May be corrosive causing irreversible damage to the skin or eyes	Highly Toxic: • If eaten • If absorbed through the skin • If inhaled

First Aid



The **First Aid** section provides essential instructions on what to do in case of accidental exposure, along with a **hazard hotline phone number** for immediate assistance and expert advice.

Precautionary Statements

This section is crucial for understanding how to mitigate the risks associated with pesticide use. **Precautionary Statements** cover:

- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Specifies the minimum protective gear required, such as gloves, eye protection, respirators, and protective clothing.
- **Personal Safety:** Information on hygiene practices, such as washing hands after use, and avoiding contact with skin, eyes, and clothing.
- **Environmental Hazards:** Details risks to non-target organisms like fish, birds, bees, and beneficial insects, and provides guidance to prevent environmental contamination.
- **Physical or Chemical Hazards:** Alerts users to risks such as flammability or reactivity with other substances.



Directions For Use

Often the most extensive, but an important part of the label, the **Directions for Use** section guides you on how to apply the pesticide correctly and effectively. It includes:

Target Pests	What specific insects, weeds, or diseases the product is designed to control.
Target Sites	Where the pesticide can be legally applied.
Application Rates	The amount of product to use per unit of area or volume
Timing	When to apply for maximum effectiveness (e.g., pre-emergent, post emergent, specific growth stages).
Methods	How to apply the pesticide (e.g., spraying, granular application, drenching).
Mixing Instructions	How to properly mix the pesticide with water or other carriers

Use Restrictions are critical limitations on how pesticides can be applied. These might be consolidated in a dedicated section or interspersed within other parts of the label. They tell you what you **cannot do**.

Storage And Disposal

The **Storage and Disposal** section provides guidance on handling the product when it's not in use and after its intended application.

Storage: Recommendations for safe storage locations (e.g., cool, dry, locked areas away from children, pets, and food).

Disposal: Instructions on how to dispose of unused products, empty containers, and rinse water in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations.



Conclusion: Your Responsibility

Reading and understanding a pesticide label is not just recommended; it's a legal requirement and a fundamental aspect of responsible pesticide use. By carefully reviewing each section, you ensure the product is used safely, effectively, and in compliance with regulations, protecting yourself, others, and the environment. **Always read the label before each use.**

ISDA Ag Resources Division: (208) 332-8605 | PesticideInformation@ISDA.Idaho.gov