

WHAT IS *OUR WATER—OUR WORLD (OWOW)?*



The OWOW program is a partnership between local government agencies and businesses to reduce water pollution caused by pesticides. This pocket-guide offers product choices that are less toxic to people, pets and the environment. For a larger list, visit www.ourwaterourworld.org.

Are Products Really Necessary?

Products (even those found in this pocket guide) should not be the first line of defense against pests! Good pest management should focus on preventing pest problems to begin with. This might mean keeping counters free of crumbs to avoid ants, pruning out aphid populations before they get out of control, using slow-release fertilizers or compost that allow grass and plants to absorb nutrients more efficiently, or attracting beneficial insects – such as ladybugs and green lacewings – that help keep garden pests (like aphids and mealybugs) under control.

Many gardeners kill beneficial insects because they mistake them for pests. When you lose beneficial insects, you lose one of the best nontoxic defenses to a healthy garden! For more information on these garden predators, go to www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/NE/index.html.

Things to Avoid and Why

• **Aerosols and Home Foggers**

Aerosols and home foggers disperse chemicals in a way that significantly increase the risk of exposure to unintentional targets – including people and pets.

• **Metaldehyde Snail Baits** They contribute to hundreds of pet poisonings per year.

• **Pyrethroids** Avoid products ending in “thrin.”* They belong to a class of pesticides called pyrethroids and are a threat to water quality. They are also highly toxic to aquatic insects and crustaceans. The exception to this is pyrethrin which is produced naturally from the chrysanthemum flower.

• **Lawn Pesticides** Lawn weed killers and insecticides are rarely, if ever, needed for home lawns. Chemicals in them are linked to adverse long-term health effects. In particular, “weed-and-feed” type products, which mix fertilizers with pesticides, result in unnecessary pesticide use. See www.beyondpesticides.org/lawn/index.htm

*Look at the front of the label under “Active Ingredients.”



Pests Bugging You?

A Pocket Guide for
Choosing Products Less Toxic
to People and Pets

www.ourwaterourworld.org

PEST AND LESS TOXIC ALTERNATIVES

Ants

Combat Quick Kill
Combat Source Kill
Grant's Kills Ants
Orange Guard
Safer Roach and Ant Killing Powder
Tanglefoot Pest Barrier
Terro II Liquid Ant Baits

Aphids

Bonide Rose RX 3 in 1
Bug Blaster
Concern Pesticidal Oil
Greenlight Neem
Greenlight Rose Defense
Insecticidal Soaps (e.g. Bonide, Garden Safe, Concern)
Ortho Volk Oil
Sunspray Ultra-Fine Oil

Cockroaches

Combat Quick Kill
Combat Roach Killing Gel
Concern Crawling Insect Killer
PIC Boric Acid Roach Powder
Roach and Insect Magnet
Roach Motel or Roach Prufe
Safer Crawling Insect Killer
Safer Roach and Ant Killing Powder

PEST AND LESS TOXIC ALTERNATIVES

Fleas

Concern Crawling Insect Killer
Fleanix
Greenlight Bioganic Lawn & Garden*
Insecticidal Soaps*
**(will work on adult fleas and is only to be applied outdoors where pets may be lying)*
Safer Crawling Insect Killer

Mealybugs

Bonide All Seasons Oil
Concern Pesticidal Oil
Lily Miller Superior Type Oil
Monterey Safe-T-Cide
Ortho Volk Oil
Stoller Natur'l Oil
Summit Year Round Oil

Mosquitoes

Bayer Mosquito Preventer Granules
Bonide Mosquito Plunks
Mosquito Bits
Prestrike granules (*larvae control only*)
Summit Mosquito Dunks
Vectobac

This pocket guide was developed by Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP) in San Rafael, 415/499-6528, with assistance from Ann Joseph Consulting.

PEST AND LESS TOXIC ALTERNATIVES

Mites

Bonide All Season's Oil
Bonide RX 3 in 1
Garden Safe Fungicide 3
Greenlight Neem
Greenlight Rose Defense
Lily Miller Superior Type Oil
Master Nursery Pest Fighter Oil
Ortho Volk Oil
Summit Year Round Oil
Sun-Spray Ultra Fine

Snails and Slugs

Bayer Dual Action Slug and Snail
Bonide Slug Magic
Copper Barrier Tape
Escargo
Garden Safe Slug and Snail
Sluggo
Worry Free

Whiteflies

Whitefly Sticky Traps
(See Mite Control Oil Products)

Yellowjackets

Traps

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LESS TOXIC ACTIVE INGREDIENTS

Active ingredients are listed on the front of the product. The following is a partial list of active ingredients found in products that are considered less toxic. For a more complete listing, go to www.ourwaterourworld.org

abamectin	<i>containerized bait form)</i>
ammoniated soap of fatty acids	hydramethlynon (<i>ONLY in containerized bait form or gel</i>)
arsenic (<i>ONLY in containerized bait form</i>)	hydrophobic extract of neem
Bacillus subtilis	iron phosphate
Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis	lemon eucalyptus oil
borax and boric acid	methoprene
canola oil	orthoboric acid
castor oil, vegetable wax, gum resin	paraffinic oil
citric acid	petroleum oil
clove, rosemary, sesame and thyme oil	picaridin
corn gluten	potassium bicarbonate
d-Limonene	potassium soap (or salts) of fatty acids
diatomaceous earth	sodium tetraborate decahydrate
eugenol	soybean oil and
fipronil (<i>ONLY in</i>	cottonseed oil