

Correct Usage of Pesticides

Incorrect usage of pesticides may contribute to stormwater pollution. If pesticides must be used, observe the following practices to minimize their impact on the environment:

- Use the least-toxic pesticide first. Always read the label and follow the instructions of any pesticide you choose.
- Avoid applying broad-spectrum pesticides; they destroy beneficial insects as well as pests, leaving trees or shrubs unprotected if pests return.
- Apply pesticides only to plants that are specified on the label. Some formulations injure tender ornamental plants and new growth.
- Mix pesticides according to their directions and apply only the recommended dosage.
- Avoid systemic pesticides on vegetables and other edible plants. Systemic pesticides are taken up by the plant, making its tissues and fluids toxic to feeding pests and unsafe for human consumption.
- For best results, apply non-systemic pesticides to all infested plant surfaces. Non-systemic pesticides must come into direct contact with the insects in order to work.
- Avoid the overuse of chemicals. Many pests have become resistant to certain pesticides.

In most cases, disposing of leftover or unwanted pesticides in the regular trash is acceptable. However, there may be other disposal options. Consider taking these kinds of items to a household hazardous waste facility for disposal.

Information from <http://takecareoftexas.org>