

Customers look to you for information

about the yard and household chemicals that they purchase. Home-use pesticides pose a particular risk to our stormwater system.



Pollution of our local waterways can occur by washing pesticides and other chemicals into storm drains. Contaminated runoff is a major cause of environmental pollution in streams.

The purpose of this brochure is to assist the managers of garden supply stores to

educate employees

on how to advise customers about safe pesticide use and disposal. . Your business and its employees can play a big role in helping to protect our streams, rivers and lakes in Oklahoma.

This brochure is not intended to provide complete guidance on the use or disposal of pesticides. Always refer to and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Additional Resources

Visit the **Green Country Stormwater Alliance (GCSA)** website listed below for more details about stormwater protection, including Best Management Practices (BMPs) and other pollution reduction strategies.



Contact Information:

For information about Green Country Stormwater Alliance, contact INCOG at 918-584-7526 or by email at stormwater@incog.org. For local information, contact your city or county stormwater coordinator.

For more information about stormwater protection, contact the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Water Quality Division at 405-702-8100 or visit the DEQ web site at: <https://www.deq.ok.gov/water-quality-division/stormwater/>

For stormwater related complaints, call the DEQ statewide hotline at 1-800-522-0206. This number is answered 24-7. Citizens may fill out an online complaint form at the DEQ web site at <https://www.deq.ok.gov/environmental-complaints/> and submit it electronically to DEQ. The site also provides contact links to DEQ.

Brochure Rev. February 2020



A Retailer's Guide to Pesticide Basics





Retail Customer Considerations for Over-the-Counter Pesticides

Talk To Your Customers:

- Have they identified the pests and know which chemicals to use?
- Do they know of alternative treatments?
- Do they know how to view the labels and follow label instructions?
- Do they know how the product will affect pets and beneficial insects?
- Do they know how to get safety information and use protective gear?
- Do they know how to safely use the product, especially concentrates?
- Do they know which application conditions apply (sunlight, season, rainfall, mowing, watering, etc.)?
- Do they know about the possible need for repeat applications?
- Do they know how to properly and safely clean up applicators and spills?
- Do they know how to properly dispose of unused product and containers?

Many pesticides are harmful to people, animals and our environment. Pesticide use often requires repeat applications. Over time some pests become resistant which reduces pesticide effectiveness.

Product Display Area Management:

- A store's chemical products area has potential for injury to customers.
- Many products are concentrates of toxic chemicals in glass containers on shelves.
- Some chemicals are sensitive to strong sunlight or extremes of temperatures.
- Many strong pesticide chemicals require special types of absorbents and other supplies for proper spill cleanup.
- Disposal of waste cleanup materials may require special handling.
- Spill cleanup kits, along with kit use instructions, should have easy access.
- Employees should be trained in chemical handling, stocking and spill cleanup.
- Floor managers should be knowledgeable to address customer's questions and concerns about chemical use, safety and proper disposal.
- Shelves should be sturdy, and containers placed on shelves to avoid falls.
- Aisles between product displays should be wide enough to minimize bumping by customers and their shopping carts.

Pesticide Use Tips for Customers:

- Read labels carefully for important information on product use, safety and cleanup.
- Be certain which pesticide is the best option for controlling the target pests.
- Use the manufacturer's hotline and customer service for safety questions.
- Minimize pesticide runoff by not applying during or just before rainfall runoff.
- When mixing solutions from concentrates, make sure the container is labeled with the product, intended use, date and expiration.
- Use only the amounts and application procedures recommended by the manufacturer. Applying overly concentrated solutions can have dangerous consequences for the environment.
- Always wear the recommended safety gear when working with pesticides.

Visit **EPA's pesticide webpage** at: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/> for information about pesticide regulation, use and disposal, and EPA's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program on alternatives to pesticide use.