



## RESPONSIBLE CHEMICAL USE



Learning how to manage and handle chemicals safely and responsibly not only ensures your personal protection, but also provides environmental protection for our precious natural resources, like water, soils, native plants and animals, marine and coastal environments.



Before using any chemical, read all sections of the label carefully

This fact sheet is part of a series designed to help you:

- increase your awareness of correct and responsible use of all chemical types
- gain the knowledge required to effectively control weeds, pest insects and diseases without damaging, contaminating or polluting our environment
- adopt best practice to minimise chemical use and maximise personal safety, and
- play a part in improving water quality and environmental health.

### Labels are Not Advertising

Chemical labels are not advertising. They are technical documents designed to help you use the contents correctly without harming yourself or the environment.

All types of chemical products – even household chemicals – are carefully labelled so users know how toxic the chemicals are to humans and how to achieve the best possible results, with minimum personal and environmental risk, when using them.

The following information is designed to help you better understand and comply with the information that appears on chemical product labelling.

### What's on the Label

Each label contains important information about the product, including how it should be handled and used, as well as vital information about its toxicity.

Before using any chemical, or opening the container, read all sections of the product label carefully. Every chemical label has a number of key sections, including:

- directions for use
- toxicity warning, and
- general instructions.

### Directions for Use

- This section of the label provides details about the different pests the product will control, the crops or situations in which it can be used, how it is to be applied and the label rates at which it must be used.
- It also details different rates for product use under a variety of conditions. Any variation from these directions could cause damage to your plants/crops or result in the chemical being ineffective.

### Toxicity Warning

- Look for key warning words in a red or black box towards the top of the label.
- A warning that reads KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN indicates the product has not been Scheduled because of its low toxicity. These products are classified as *Unscheduled* according to the Poisons Schedule.
- Products with red or black labels marked CAUTION or POISON or DANGEROUS POISON contain Scheduled Poisons.
- If the product carries the warning CAUTION, it contains a Schedule 5 poison with a slight degree of hazard.
- The warning POISON indicates a Schedule 6 poison with a moderate degree of hazard.
- The warning DANGEROUS POISON indicates a Schedule 7 poison with a high degree of hazard.

These warnings apply when the product is used as directed on the label.

*For more information on degrees of hazard, please refer to another fact sheet in this series: Understanding Product Labels #1.*

#### Other fact sheets in this series

Accuracy and Effectiveness  
Alternatives to Chemicals  
Bait Station Safety  
Best Time to Spray  
Calibrating Spray Equipment  
Personal Safety  
Understanding Product Labels #1  
Using Glyphosate  
Weeds Near Water





## General Instructions

These include:

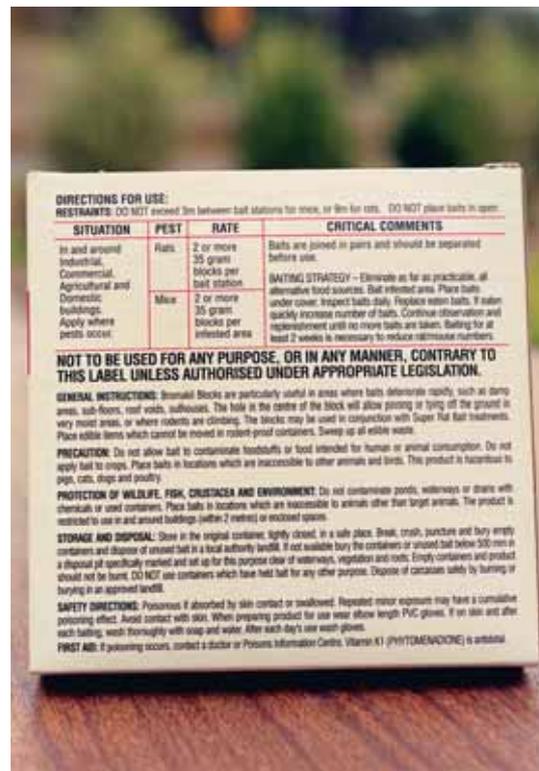
- conditions required to achieve best results when using the product
- relevant warnings about issues such as resistance or the effect of the product on other plants or fauna as well as the environment
- storage and disposal of containers, and
- safety directions and first aid.

Locating information you need from the various sections of the 'directions for use' panel can be simplified if you focus on key words, such as:

- the equipment you are using, or
- the target pest (insect, rodent, fungus or weed).

Once you have identified the relevant directions for your particular application or need, read that information in detail.

Do not use the product for any purpose other than that for which it is registered. Off-label use places both the user and the environment at risk.



Check the panel on the label to identify the directions for use that suit your particular application or need

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When using chemicals more is not better!

If you are uncertain about any aspect of chemical use, please seek professional advice from the place of purchase or the manufacturer before proceeding.

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