

POISON ANTIDOTE

Summer 06



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PESTICIDE USE AND STORAGE

Pesticides are useful substances intended for preventing, destroying, or repelling any pests. Pesticides are designed to be toxic to the target pests and like most substances, can be harmful if used or stored improperly. Examples of pesticides include:

- Insect repellants for personal use (such as mosquito repellants).
- Rat and other rodent poisons.
- Insect and wasp sprays.
- Some lawn and garden products, such as weed killers.
- Flea and tick sprays, powders, and pet collars.

The Utah Poison Control Center recommends the following safety and prevention tips to help ensure a safe summer while using or storing pesticides.

- Always make sure pesticides are in a locked cabinet and out of reach of children.
- Read the label on the container and follow directions for use exactly.
- Always keep pesticides in original containers.
- Place rodent and insect baits where children cannot get to them.
- If possible, use non-chemical pest control methods in your home and garden; such as block pest entryways, empty garbage frequently.

Additionally, bathrooms and kitchens were cited as the areas in the home most likely to have pesticides that are improperly stored.¹ Since most poisonings occur when the product is in use, remember to properly secure products while they are in use.

In case of a poison emergency, call the Utah Poison Control Center at **1-800-222-1222**. Remember to have the product available so our specialists can better serve you. If the person is unconscious, having difficulty breathing, or having convulsions call 9-1-1.

BITES AND STINGS

As summer approaches, we spend more time outdoors. Bites and stings most commonly occur in the summer months. In 2005 the Utah Poison Control Center received nearly 1,700 calls related to bites, envenomations, and stings. Of these reported exposures, 71 were linked to black widow spiders, 18 to rattlesnake bites, and 342 to bees/wasps/hornets. The Utah Poison Control Center recommends the following prevention tips when it comes to bites and stings:

- Remove trash, old boxes, piles of lumber, old rubble piles, and other unwanted items from under or around the home.
- Remove clutter from basements, closets, garages and attics.
- Wear gloves while cleaning or handling items that have been stored for a long time.
- Install screens on doors and windows to prevent spiders and other insects from entering the home.
- Seal cracks and crevices where spiders can enter the home.
- Avoid places where snakes may live. These places include tall grass or brush, rocky areas, fallen logs, bluffs, swamps, marshes, and deep holes in the ground.
- Watch where you step and where you sit when outdoors.
- Wear loose, long pants and high, thick leather or rubber boots.
- To avoid attracting bees while eating outdoors, keep food covered until ready to eat, especially ripe fruit and soft drinks.
- Be careful not to mow over a bee/wasp/hornet nest in the ground nor disturb a nest in a tree or eaves of the home.

If you suspect a bite or sting, call the Poison Control Center immediately and an expert in poison information will be available to help you.

