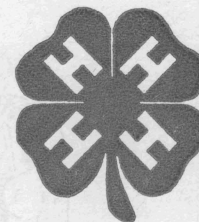


Handle Insecticides Safely

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ANY MATERIAL WHICH KILLS INSECTS may be harmful to humans and animals. Accidents involving the use of insecticides may be attributed to several causes. Some of the more common causes include:

- Leaving insecticides exposed to small children and irresponsible persons.
- Failure to read and follow directions on the label of the container.
- Careless use and application of insecti-

cides.

- Improper disposal or return of the empty container.
- Failure to observe personal hygiene when and after applying insecticides.

The following illustrations show careless and safe practices. They are designed to help 4-H members understand some of the minimum precautions that should be followed in the proper use and handling of insecticides.



Careless Practice

1. Insecticides should be stored in a safe place out of reach of small children and irresponsible persons.
2. Keep insecticides in their original, properly labeled containers, away from human food



Safe Practice

or animal feed stuff and in a storage place that can be locked.

3. Store insecticides in a place where there is no fire hazard.



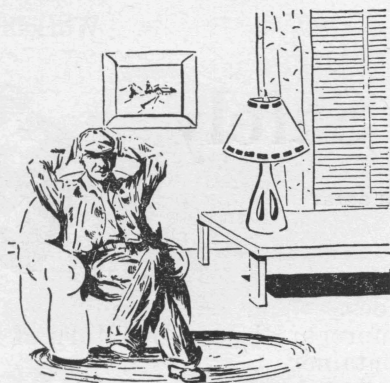
Careless Practice

1. Do not leave opened or unused insecticide containers where children or livestock may come in contact with them.
2. Burn all empty paper, cardboard and bag containers and keep away from the smoke.



Safe Practice

3. Metal containers that once held toxic insecticides should be buried or made useless by puncturing.
4. If empty reusable containers are kept, they should be washed and cleaned immediately of all insecticide residue.



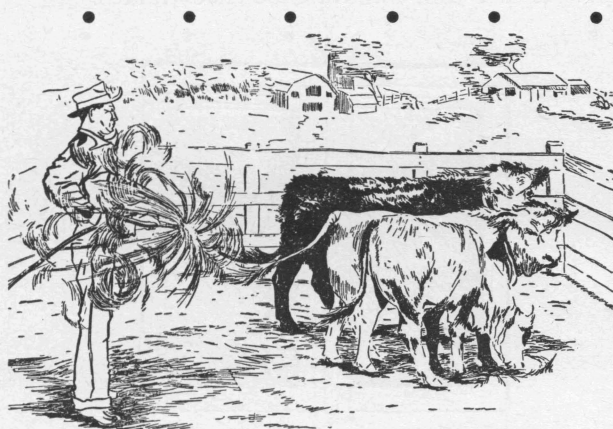
Careless Practice

1. Remove clothing that has been contaminated with insecticides and then bathe immediately.
2. Wash hands and face after dusting or



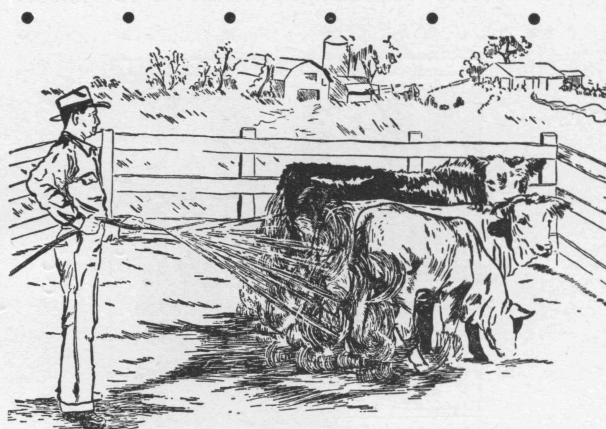
Safe Practice

3. In using an insecticide classed as dangerous, wear protective clothing and a mask when recommended.



Careless Practice

1. Do not apply insecticides when the wind is high.
2. Avoid the drift from insecticidal sprays and dusts.
3. Direct the flow of insecticide with the wind as shown above right.



Safe Practice

4. Read carefully the directions listed on the manufacturer's label. Use the correct product and under conditions where it will not affect animal or plant life for which it is not intended.

Suggested Activities on Handling Insecticides Safely

1. If you observe an individual handling insecticides carelessly, advise him of the danger involved and how to use the chemical safely.

2. Eliminate all insecticide hazards from the farm and home. Dispose of all empty containers in the proper manner. See that insecticides, home sprayers and dusters are kept in a safe place.

3. Compile a personal file which contains information pertaining to insecticides and their uses. The file may consist of publications which are available from your extension agent's office.

4. Find pictures that show safety practices in handling and using insecticides. Paste them on a sheet of paper and write the safety practices involved beneath each picture.

5. Build a box or locker (as shown in sketch) to store insecticide containers for use around the home. (An apple or orange crate may be used.) Also store small dusters and sprayers inside the box. The box may be portable or placed permanently in a safe place.

- a. Equip the box door with hinge and a padlock.

- b. Have all insecticide containers properly identified. If the original label has been removed, place a label on the container to identify the contents.
- c. Construct a small place within the box to store reference publications about insect control. (The publications are available from your extension agent's office.) Give a demonstration on how to build an insecticide cabinet at one of your 4-H Club meetings. Point out the importance of keeping insecticides in a central place where they are handy for use and out of reach of small children and irresponsible persons. Your extension agents can help you plan and give the demonstration.

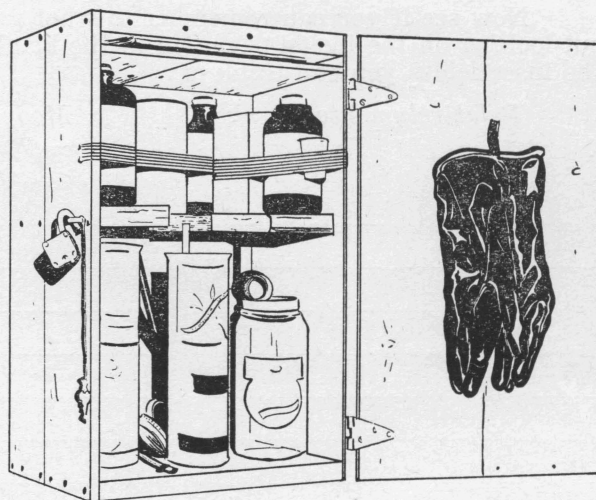
6. Write a short narrative on practices you carried out concerning the safe handling of insecticides and include it in your Safety Report Book.

Insecticides may be classed generally into three groups according to their toxicity to humans.

1. *Relatively nontoxic*—Some common insecticides in this group are rotenone, sabadilla, pyrethrins, sulfur and dormant or summer oil sprays.

2. *Moderately toxic*—Some common insecticides in this group are DDT, chlordane, malathion, lindane, toxaphene, dieldrin, heptachlor, aldrin and aramite.

3. *Highly toxic*—Some common insecticides in this group are parathion, TEPP, nicotine sulfate, EPN, demeton, *Diazinon, Thimet, *Guthion, *Phosdrin, methyl parathion and endrin.



All insecticides, even those considered relatively nontoxic, should be used with safety. Be extra cautious when using highly toxic chemicals.

Insecticidal injury to man may result by breathing the fumes, taking the insecticide into the mouth or by skin absorption. Chemicals such as DDT, lindane, toxaphene, nicotine sulfate, malathion, parathion and many others may be absorbed through the skin.

Give yourself this test and see how you do. Answer *yes* or *no* to the following:

1. Is leaving insecticides, sprayers and dusters exposed a safe practice?.....
2. Should insecticidal containers always be labeled?.....
3. Is it necessary to bathe after having handled toxic insecticides?.....
4. Does direction of wind have any influence over when to apply insecticides?.....
5. Can some insecticides be absorbed through the skin?.....

Now see if you can remember to what group some of the common insecticides belong. Without looking on the inside page, fill in the blanks below, in the correct column, the names of all of the insecticides you can think of:

<i>Relatively nontoxic</i>	<i>Moderately toxic</i>	<i>Highly toxic</i>
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Make insecticides helpful tools on the farm and in the home by thinking safety, teaching safety and practicing safety when handling them.