

More information

Washington State Department of Health
Pesticide Program: 1-877-485-7316
www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/Pest/

National Pesticide Information Center
1-800-858-7378
www.npic.orst.edu

Washington State University
Pesticide Education:
<http://pep.wsu.edu/>

For poisoning emergencies
Washington Poison Center
1-800-222-1222

To report pesticide related illness
Washington Department of Health
1-877-485-7316



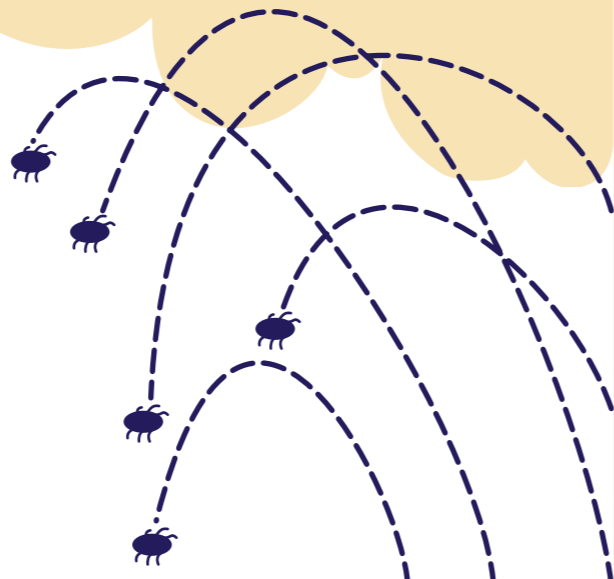
Office of Environmental Health Assessments
P.O. Box 47846
Olympia, WA 98504-7846

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PUBLIC HEALTH
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HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

Pesticide Safety

Bug Bombs: Overkill Can Be Dangerous



Bug bombs, also called insect foggers, are cans of pesticides that spray out all at once. They are used to kill pests, such as cockroaches and fleas. Foggers can be a **serious health and safety hazard** if you use too many or don't follow the directions.

Improper use of foggers can make you sick.

Overexposure to foggers can cause breathing problems, dizziness, and nausea.

Foggers can also trigger asthma attacks.



Too many foggers for the size of your house can cause fires or explosions.

Keep them away from sparks or flames.

Read the warning labels.



More Is Not Better—It's Dangerous.

Some people think, “if one is good, more must be better.” But overkill is a bad idea when it comes to pesticides and foggers.

Overuse of foggers can result in a visit to the hospital emergency room for breathing problems and other symptoms. Never use more foggers than are recommended. Get everyone out of the home before you start the fogger.

Foggers use flammable gases to spray out the pesticides. When you use too many foggers, the vapors build up. A spark from a pilot light, furnace, thermostat, water heater or other source can cause a fire or explosion. Be sure to read all the warnings on the label.



Better Yet, Use Alternatives

Fleas

Prevention is the best way to manage fleas so you don't need to use flea sprays or foggers. To prevent fleas from becoming a problem in your home:

- Put towels or rugs that you can wash in places where pets sleep. Wash bedding in hot water every week.
- Comb pets with a flea comb to remove any fleas.
- Vacuum carpets and furniture often where pets usually lie or sit.
- Ask your vet about a spot-on treatment or an oral treatment to keep fleas from infesting your pet.



Cockroaches

There are safer and more effective ways to control cockroaches in your home than using a fogger. Eliminate their food, water and hiding places:

- Repair plumbing leaks.
- Store food in sealed containers and keep pet dishes covered.
- Keep stove tops, counters and floors clean of grease and food.
- Caulk cracks where roaches hide.
- Use sticky traps to find the areas where roaches are most active. Then place boric acid or low toxicity baits in those areas.
- Professionals can use methods such as vacuuming roaches out of cracks and placing gel baits to control them without using insecticide sprays.

Safety checklist:

- Read** the label and all warnings. Follow the directions exactly.
- Use** no more than the recommended amount.
- Keep** the fogger away from pilot lights, sparks or flames.
- Get** everybody out of the building, including pets. Remove toys and uncovered food.
- Stay out** of the building for as long as it says on the label.
- Air out** the area completely after using the fogger.
- Wash** all tables, counters and surfaces used for food.

For more information on alternatives, go to www.npic.orst.edu.

Tips on pesticides:

Figure out your pest problem.

Don't overreact. Seeing a few bugs doesn't always mean you need to apply pesticides. Find the least toxic way to get rid of them.

Get the right product.

Read the label. Use a product that works on the kind of bugs you have.

Buy only the amount you need.

To avoid risks of accidents or spills, always handle and dispose of containers properly.

Follow the directions exactly.

Pay close attention to warnings. Never use more than is recommended.

Keep out of reach of children.

Accidents can cause illness and injury. Keep the Washington Poison Center phone number handy.





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