

Responsible Use of Pesticides on Raptors View Wildlife Estate
RVHOA Eco Committee

#1: General Good Practice

May 2022

Responsible Use of pesticides on Raptors View Wildlife Estate

- The RVHOA Eco Committee feels that it is prudent to provide all estate residents with guidelines on the 'Responsible Use of Pesticides' for the pest control operations we conduct in & around our homes on our estate
- As we have the privilege of living on this wonderful estate, we need to conduct our pest control actions in a manner that is as environmentally compatible as possible
- The use of pesticides is often a contentious issue, but we do need to accept that their use in certain circumstances is unavoidable, such as for food security, protection of infrastructure & public health goals
- On our estate, the unavoidable use of pesticides may include the following end uses (not exhaustive)
 - o Pre-construction termite control treatment
 - o Annual perimeter follow-up treatment for termites
 - o Perimeter wall treatment for residual control of mosquitoes
 - o Use of rodenticides to control rodents in our homes
 - o The use of herbicides along our estate's perimeter fence to prolong the life of the fence & prevent electric fence alarms being triggered by vegetation
- In South Africa, the marketing, sale & use of pest control products is legislated & controlled (Act No. 36 of 1947)
 - o This legislation dictates that:
 - individuals may only use pest control products that are registered for use against the specified pest & only in areas / crops listed on the product label
 - individuals applying pesticides for financial gain need to be registered 'pest control operators' (PCO)
 - o it is illegal to recommend, use or dispose of any pesticide in any manner not clearly stated on the product label
- the pesticide legislation in South Africa is based on the principle of 'risk mitigation'
 - o this means that even though the active ingredient in a pesticide may be considered as a 'hazard' for the user, environment or consumer in its basic form, when the active ingredient is formulated into the final product & said final product is used strictly according to label recommendations, the 'hazard' becomes an acceptable risk
 - o an analogy to help explain the 'risk' vs 'hazard' assessment is an activity in which we all participate, namely driving a car
 - driving a car is certainly a potentially 'hazardous' activity
 - however, this 'hazard' becomes an 'acceptable risk' when we wear seatbelts, drive cars with ABS & air bags, & respect all traffic rules
 - o so even though all pesticides are potentially hazardous, when used according to label directions, the risk becomes acceptable

- therefore, it is critically important to ALWAYS read the label of any pesticide product before you start to use it

When the use of a pesticide on our estate is necessary, it is hoped that these simple guidelines will be useful to residents in using said pesticides in a responsible manner

Key actions leading to the Responsible Use of pesticides

a. DIY pest control solution

- The supermarkets & co-ops in & around town all carry a wide range of pesticides available for DIY pest control efforts
- Once you have decided that it is absolutely necessary to use a pesticide in or around your home, you need to carefully choose a product that is registered to control the pest you want to target & that it is registered for DIY pest control in & around human dwellings
 - A pesticide that has been registered for use in South Africa will always have a registration number that begins with the letter 'L' followed by a string of numbers
 - DO NOT even consider using a product from any vendor that does not carry such a so-called L-number
 - DO NOT use any pest control concoction that is recommended by 'Tannie Google' or available from informal vendors
- Before using the pesticide you have purchased, you must ALWAYS:
 - Read the product label in order to understand the correct dosage, application equipment required, restrictions for use, etc.
 - How many of us purchase an aerosol pesticide for flying & crawling insects without bothering to read the 'directions for use'?
 - The fact that some of us may need a magnifying glass to read the small print is not an excuse 😊
 - Product labels are not a guideline – they are legally binding 'directions for use' that have been developed after many years of research & development
 - Once you know how to use the product, ALWAYS wear protective clothing
 - A long-sleeved shirt, long pants, hand gloves, closed shoes plus face & head protection are the minimum protection you must use
 - Using personal protective equipment reduces the risk of skin exposure should you accidentally spill the pesticide you are applying
 - For liquid pesticides diluted in water, remember to only use the concentration of product, & volume of application mixture, as specified on the product label
 - For ready-to-use products (like rodenticide wax block baits) only deploy the amount of product specified on the label

- After using the pesticide, you need to:
 - Clean any application equipment used
 - Remove & wash the clothing used during pesticide application
 - Ensure any unused pesticide is securely locked away from children, uninformed persons & wildlife
 - NEVER dispose of unused pesticides where wildlife or water courses may be contaminated; again, read the product label for directions for disposal of unwanted pesticides
 - Left over or unwanted pesticides may only be destroyed by incineration.
- All registered pesticide product labels must carry an emergency contact number
 - Should you be accidentally exposed to a pesticide or accidentally spill a pesticide in the environment, call the listed emergency number immediately
- After emptying a pesticide container, triple rinse the empty container and recycle if possible. Instructions will be on the labels of pesticides.

b. Securing the services of a pest control operator

- As mentioned above, individuals applying pesticides for financial gain need to be registered 'pest control operators' (PCO)
 - This registration is obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development, with individuals applying to become a certified PCO needing to undergo specified training prior to their application being considered
 - The PCO certification consists of an official certificate that carries the PCO's name & ID number, along with a specific PCO registration number that starts with the letter 'P'
 - An example would be 'P-12345'
 - Said certificate is valid for a period of 3 years
- When obtaining a quotation from a PCO for the application of a pesticide in & around your home, it is good practice to request from the PCO you have engaged with the following:
 - A copy, for your files, of his/her 'certificate of registration' as a PCO that shows the PCO's name, ID number, unique P registration number & expiry date of the certificate
 - Ensure that the PCO is registered for the task, for example, 'structural pest control' must be listed as a certified field of service on the PCO certificate of the person providing you with a quotation for preventative termite treatments during construction of new premises
 - A copy, for your files, of the product label of the pesticide/s that the PCO will be applying in & around your home

In case of emergencies, call:

the 24/7 Poison Information Helpline; **086 155 5777**

or

- 24/7 Griffon Poison Information Centre, **082 446 8946**



RESPONSIBLE USE OF PESTICIDES

FOLLOW THESE **9** EASY STEPS

1 Only use registered pesticides when needed. Get advice before buying pesticides and only purchase them at authorised retailers.



2 When transporting pesticides make sure they are securely stored away from people, animals and food.



3 When storing pesticides make sure they are kept in a well-ventilated, securely locked place, away from children and pets.



4 Carefully read the product label and leaflets and follow the instructions. Never use for any other purpose or manner than that stated on the label.



5 Check sprayer regularly for leaks and that nozzles work properly. Wear personal protection equipment while mixing and loading.



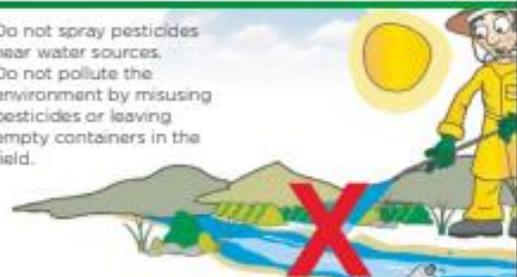
6 Triple rinse empty pesticide containers into the spray tank. Then puncture the container so that it cannot be used for water or food storage. Take empty, rinsed containers to the nearest Croplife SA certified collection site.



7 While spraying pesticides, always wear personal protection equipment and only use calibrated equipment with no leaks. Spray early in the morning or late in the evening when it is less windy. Do not eat, drink or smoke while spraying.



8 Do not spray pesticides near water sources. Do not pollute the environment by misusing pesticides or leaving empty containers in the field.



9 After spraying pesticides, take a shower and put on clean clothes. Wash the spray equipment and personal protection. Store all equipment separately and safely.



! In case of accidental contamination, wash and apply first aid according to the label. Call the poison information centre for advice and take the person to the nearest medical centre and take the product label with you.

Source: Croplife South Africa