

Pesticide Safety-

Increase Awareness

Reduce Hazards



Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Plant and Pesticides Regulatory Division

What is a Pesticide?

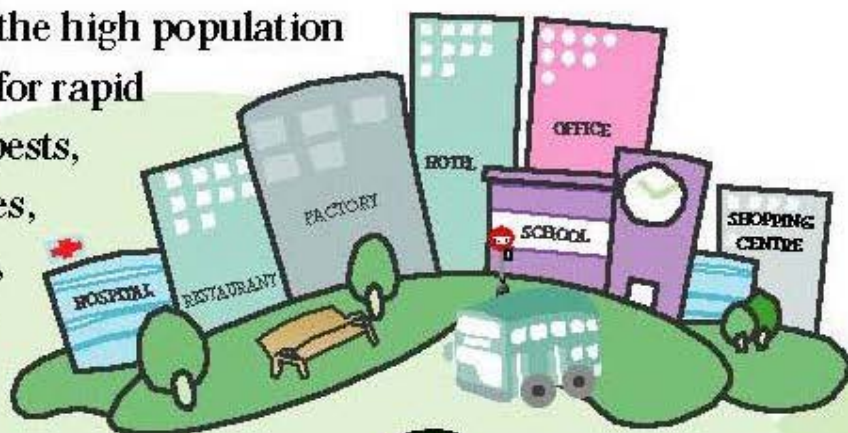
The term "Pesticide" refers not only to insecticides but also applies to herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides and various other substances used to control pests. In general, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pests is considered to be a pesticide. Pesticides can be products in different forms and for different uses.

For instance, they include agricultural pesticides, public health pesticides, wood preservatives, anti-fouling paints, household products such as mothballs, aerosol insect spray, mosquito coil, cockroach and rat baits etc.



Are pesticides commonly used?

In an urban area like Hong Kong, the high population density provides an ideal condition for rapid expansion of pests. To control these pests, pesticides are widely used in homes, offices, parks, factories, schools, hospitals, restaurants and public transport.



Are pesticides hazardous?

While pesticides are very effective for controlling pests, their potential risks should not be overlooked. By their very nature, pesticides may cause serious harm to humans, animals and the environment if they are used improperly.



How should we use pesticides?

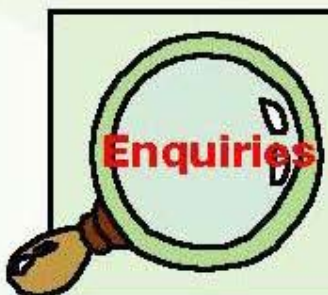
Pesticides should only be used when they are absolute necessary. Whether you apply the pesticide yourselves or you hire a pest control operator, avoid exposure to the pesticides.

If you decide to apply pesticides yourself, buy only registered ready-to-use pesticides that are intended for general domestic use. They are less hazardous, relatively safe and easy to use. Just make sure you follow all the instructions on the label of the pesticides.



If you want to hire a pest control operator, follow these general guidelines:

- Shop around and talk with several pest control companies.
- Discuss with them your pest problems.
- Ask as many questions as possible pertaining to pest control.
- Ask for the label of the product and Material Safety Data Sheet if you want to learn more about the pesticides they will use.
- Request the pest control companies to submit a pest control program. The lowest price does not always mean the best deal; ask about the techniques and other details in the proposed program. Select the one that most suit your needs.
- Take the necessary precautionary measures such as before, during and after the pesticide application.



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