

MDA PESTICIDE INFORMATION SHEET

Maryland Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Regulation Section
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Telephone: (410)841-5710 FAX: (410)841-2765 Internet: www.mda.state.md.us

No. 19

BEWARE OF FLY-BY-NIGHT COMPANIES ILLEGALLY APPLYING PESTICIDES IN HOMES

Since 1994, more than 6,000 homes and businesses in Louisiana, Ohio, Michigan and Mississippi have been contaminated due to the misuse of agricultural pesticides that are supposed to be applied to crops outdoors. The contamination was the result of unlicensed pest control operators illegally spraying agricultural pesticides inside residences to control cockroaches and other pests placing the residents and their pets at great risk. Some of these pesticides are highly toxic, and when misused by spraying them in the house, they can result in long term illness and even death because indoors they cannot be broken down by environmental factors.

Methyl parathion, a highly toxic agricultural insecticide used on cotton and other agricultural crops, has been the product most commonly misused by these unlicensed applicators. It is also known by "Roach Poison", "Roach Milk" and "Cotton Poison". Methyl parathion is a brownish liquid that turns a "milky white" color when it is mixed with water. Methyl parathion also smells like "rotten eggs" and can leave a yellow stain on areas where it has been sprayed.



HOW DO I PROTECT MYSELF?

To prevent the illegal use of pesticides in your home by unlicensed businesses, follow these suggestions:

- ☠ Beware of unlicensed, unscrupulous, fly-by-night applicators. Ask for proof of a Maryland pesticide business license number.
- ☠ Be aware of the serious health and environmental threats posed by using an illegal pesticide to control pests.
- ☠ Do not purchase pesticides that are in containers designed for other purposes, such as milk jugs and soda bottles.
- ☠ Make sure there is a label attached to the container that tells you what the product is and how to use it.
- ☠ Always read the entire label prior to purchasing or using any pesticide.
- ☠ Look for the EPA Registration Number (example EPA REG. NO. 1000 - 555) found on all registered pesticides.
- ☠ Call the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Regulation Section to check on the license status of companies (410)841-5710, or call the National Pesticide Information Center for information on specific pesticides (1-800)858-7378.



WANTED
INFORMATION
ON UNLICENSED COMPANIES
&
BOOTLEG SALES OF
PESTICIDES

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
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