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Insect Spray Warnings And Alternatives

By Carla Donnelly

All of us want to protect ourselves from anything that will harm us, no matter how small it may be.

Mosquitoes, bugs and other small insects that fly or creep around our house are just some examples of those small beings that can pose serious danger to our health, especially to the young ones.

That is why almost all of us have resorted to having the insect sprays and repellants easily found in the shelves of our favorite grocery store. For quite a long time, these sprays have been the most effective method of getting rid of those pests in our house. However, as technology progresses and new studies have been made, these commercial sprays and repellants were found to be as harmful as the pests their trying to get rid us of.

One kind of chemical that have been present in insect sprays is the lead arsenate. Lead arsenate is an inorganic compound of arsenic and found to be useful in the purpose of killing pests. However, this chemical is highly toxic especially to organisms that it is not meant for. It also persists in the environment even after several years of not using them.

Chlorinated hydrocarbons, though found effective against mosquitoes causing malaria and fleas, have serious drawbacks also. First of all, other insects like houseflies were found to be resistant to this chemical. Also, DDT or dichloro, diphenyl, trichloroethane, one of the chemicals based on hydrocarbons, was found to be fat soluble. Those who are heavily exposed to this chemical most likely have concentrations of DDT 1000 times higher in their fats than in the blood. Although, it may not pose any real harm, it might eventually lead to some complications.

Organophosphates are very toxic chemicals that are also found in some insecticides. Parathion, an example of an organophosphate, is actually 30 times more poisonous than DDT. Each year, since it was developed during the time of World War II, these organophosphates poison thousands of people throughout the world, and even kill them. Those who are taking care of these victims are also in danger. The excretions of these patients or even vapors coming out from them are enough to poison a human being.

Insect Spray Warnings And Alternatives

Infertility in adult men may be caused by several factors. However, recent studies show that exposure to insecticides have an effect in male infertility. This is because of the chemical chlorpyrifos found in these sprays. When exposed to chlorpyrifos or its metabolite, it may lead to reduction in the levels of testosterone in men.

Until the year 2000, this chemical, chlorpyrifos, had been the most common insect spray used in residences. After the results of the studies were released though, the Environmental Protection Agency prohibited its use in residential areas to prevent children from being exposed in that harmful chemical.

How to Understand the Label

Since this commercial product is known to have chemicals in it, we should understand what the label tells us to be safe. We need to know the toxic potential of these insect sprays. Since these chemicals

can prove to be lethal to humans, we must know the acceptable level that is safe to humans. The unit of measure of lethality is called the lethal dose 50 or LD50. The lesser the LD50 value, the more toxic the chemical is.

Alternatives

This information about the commercial insect sprays may be disturbing. But the good news is, there are several alternatives also available in the market that are much safer to use. You just have to read the labels carefully to know which one is better.

These alternatives are those that are made from organic components. There are some that are made from natural blend of plant extracts and oils. Others are either alcohol based or made from hot spices to repel insects. Most may not be aware but nicotine can also be used as insect repellent because it is extremely toxic to these harmful pests. And nicotine as insecticide has been widely used since 1880s. Miracle II is reported as effective on insect cleanup

Insect sprays are really important for us, especially if we have children around the house. We always rely on these products to keep harmful, little insects away from us and prevent diseases caused by them. However, we should also be careful in choosing the right product; else, we might end up being more harmed by these things that should protect us.

Carla Donnelly is a writer on environmental and health issues at the MangoLife Wellness Website. Sign up for the free monthly newsletter and get a free vegetarian ecookbook plus a chance to win a chemical-free soap that raises the body pH and can help with insects.

<http://www.mangolife.com/miracle2webpage2.html>

Boot Pests – And Chemicals To Boot

By News Canada

Insect Spray Warnings And Alternatives

(NC)—As more and more Canadians seek alternatives to traditional chemical pesticides, more and more natural products become available. Research is at an all-time high with new insect control technologies hitting the market each and every year.

The "greening" of Canada has resulted in a plethora of pesticides that contain no synthetics, no carbamates, no organophosphates, no chemicals in general. Fact is, it's unlikely that the average homeowner will ever need to use a product that isn't made entirely of naturally occurring ingredients.

But how do you pick the best natural pesticide for the job? The first step is to identify your pest. Common insect infestations include ants, termites, cockroaches, grubs, earwigs, slugs, snails and aphids. Ladybirds, praying mantis and lacewings are actually beneficial, so don't worry about these.

Once you've locked in on your problem bug, you need to select a treatment. Look for a natural control product that describes your specific infestation on the label. Then only buy the amount required to do the job at hand. Insectigone® Home and Garden Products will do the job for most residential garden invasions. They're available at your local Home Hardware or Home Hardware Building Centre.

Last but not least, be sure to discuss your problem with a qualified Home Hardware associate. Ask any and all questions about the product that you've chosen, as well as its usage. Natural or not, pesticides are serious business and should not be taken lightly.

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