



Canadian
Cancer
Society

Société
canadienne
du cancer

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Prevention

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Seven Steps to Health

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Specific environmental contaminants

Sunscreen and cancer
Air pollution
Arsenic in drinking water
Asbestos
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Human biomonitoring

Pesticides

Phthalates
Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs)
Radiation
Teflon™ and non-stick cookware
Suggested links

Genetic risk

Other risk factors

Reduce your child's risk

Cancer information in other languages

Key evidence-based links

Editorial policy

Pesticides

Studies show that there may be a connection between pesticides and cancer in adults and children. Most [research on pesticides](#) has focused on occupational (workplace) exposure and has linked it to non-Hodgkin lymphoma, leukemia and cancers of the prostate, kidney, brain and lung. **The research isn't conclusive**, but there is enough evidence to show a possible link. The Canadian Cancer Society advises reducing, and even eliminating, exposure to pesticides where possible.

Key points

- The Canadian Cancer Society believes that Canadians should not be exposed to cancer-causing substances at home, at work, or in their environment.
- The Society advises reducing or eliminating exposure to pesticides where possible
- Evaluating the links between pesticides and cancer risk is complex. Crucial to the Society's assessments is weighing the risks and benefits of the various ways pesticides are used.

Canadian Cancer Society position

- [Cosmetic use of pesticides](#)
The cosmetic use of pesticides is the use of pesticides to make lawns, gardens and other green spaces look better by controlling unwanted weeds and plants. The Canadian Cancer Society wants a ban on the cosmetic use of pesticides. The cosmetic use of pesticides may cause harm and provides no health benefit.
- [Non-cosmetic use of pesticides](#)
The non-cosmetic use of pesticides is the use of pesticides to control pests that may affect our health, safety or food supply. The Canadian Cancer Society believes when pesticides are used for this purpose, they should be part of a plan to control pests that includes:
 - pest prevention
 - using pesticides in the lowest amounts possible
 - using safer alternatives

The risks and benefits of the non-cosmetic use of pesticides should be assessed depending on each situation.

The Canadian Cancer Society encourages efforts to reduce pesticide use in Canada to protect human health and the environment.

Community right to know

We also strongly support a community's right to know when pesticides are being used in their area so they can make informed decisions about protecting their health.

RELATED INFORMATION

- ▶ [Pesticides](#)
- ▶ [How you can be exposed to pesticides](#)
- ▶ [Pesticides and cancer](#)
- ▶ [Non-cosmetic use of pesticides](#)
- ▶ [Pesticide residues on vegetables and fruit](#)
- ▶ [Pressure-treated lumber](#)
- ▶ [Pesticide use to control West Nile virus](#)
- ▶ [Cosmetic use of pesticides](#)
- ▶ [Pesticide regulation in Canada](#)
- ▶ [Suggested links](#)

Have questions?
Looking for support?



1 888 939-3333 | info@cis.cancer.ca

[Product labelling](#)

The Canadian Cancer Society calls for manufacturers to identify all ingredients in consumer products, including pesticides. When there are cancer-causing ingredients in pesticides, they should be identified by a hazard symbol, as well as clear plain language information about the ingredient. Ingredients include active ingredients, non-active ingredients (formulants) and possible contaminants. This information should be easy for the buyer or user to see.

[What are pesticides?](#)

[How you can be exposed](#)

[Research on pesticides and cancer](#)

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