Are Products Really Necessary?

Products (even those found in this pocket guide) should not be the first line of defense against pests! Good pest management should focus on preventing pest problems to begin with. This might mean keeping counters free of crumbs to avoid ants, pruning out aphid populations before they get out of control, using slow-release fertilizers or compost that allow grass and plants to absorb nutrients more efficiently, or attracting beneficial insects — such as ladybugs and green lacewings — that help keep garden pests (like aphids and mealybugs) under control.

Many gardeners kill beneficial insects because they mistake them for pests. When you lose beneficial insects, you lose one of the best nontoxic defenses to a healthy garden! For more information on these garden predators, go to www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/NE/index.html

Things to Avoid and Why

- **Aerosols and Home Foggers** Aerosols and home foggers disperse chemicals in a way that significantly increase the risk of exposure to unintentional targets — including people and pets.
- **Metaldehyde Snail Baits** They contribute to hundreds of pet poisonings per year.
- **Pyrethroids** Avoid products ending in “thrin.” They belong to a class of pesticides called pyrethroids and are a threat to water quality. They are also highly toxic to aquatic insects and crustaceans. The exception to this is pyrethrin which is produced naturally from the chrysanthemum flower.
- **Lawn Pesticides** Lawn weed killers and insecticides are rarely, if ever, needed for home lawns. Chemicals in them are linked to adverse long-term health effects. In particular, “weed-and-feed” type products, which mix fertilizers with pesticides, result in unnecessary pesticide use. See www.beyonddpesticides.org/lawn/index.htm

*Look at the front of the label under “Active Ingredients.”*
**PEST AND LESS TOXIC ALTERNATIVES**

**Ants**
- Combat Quick Kill
- Combat Source Kill
- Grant’s Kills Ants
- Orange Guard
- Safer Roach and Ant Killing Powder
- Tanglefoot Pest Barrier
- Terro II Liquid Ant Baits

**Aphids**
- Bonide All Seasons Spray Oil
- Bonide Rose RX 3 in 1
- Bug Blaster
- Concern Pesticidal Oil
- Greenlight Neem
- Greenlight Rose Defense
- Insecticidal Soaps (e.g. Bonide, Garden Safe, Concern)
- Ortho Volk Oil
- Safer Crawling Insect Killer
- Safer Roach and Ant Killing Powder

**Cockroaches**
- Combat Quick Kill
- Combat Roach Killing Gel
- Concern Crawling Insect Killer
- PIC Boric Acid Roach Powder
- Roach and Insect Magnet
- Roach Motel or Roach Prufe
- Safer Crawling Insect Killer
- Safer Roach and Ant Killing Powder

**Fleas**
- Concern Crawling Insect Killer
- Fleanix
- Insecticidal Soaps*
  *(will work on adult fleas and is only to be applied outdoors where pets may be lying)
- Safer Crawling Insect Killer

**Mealybugs**
- Bonide All Seasons Oil
- Concern Pesticidal Oil
- Lily Miller Superior Type Oil
- Monterey Safe-T-Cide
- Ortho Volk Oil
- Stoller Natur’l Oil
- Summit Year Round Oil

**Mosquitoes**
- Bayer Mosquito Preventer Granules
- Bonide Mosquito Plunks
- Mosquito Bits
- Prestrike granules (larvae control only)
- Summit Mosquito Dunks
- Vectobac

**Snails and Slugs**
- Bayer Dual Action Slug and Snail
- Bonide Slug Magic
- Copper Barrier Tape
- Escargo
- Garden Safe Slug and Snail
- Sluggo
- Worry Free

**Whiteflies**
- Whitelly Sticky Traps
  *(See Mite Control Oil Products)*

**Yellowjackets**
- Traps

---

**LESS TOXIC ACTIVE INGREDIENTS**

Active ingredients are listed on the front of the product. The following is a partial list of active ingredients found in products that are considered less toxic. For a more complete listing, go to www.ourwaterourworld.org

- abamectin
- ammoniated soap of fatty acids
- Bacillus subtilis
- Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis
- borax and boric acid
- canola oil
- castor oil, vegetable wax, gum resin
- citric acid
- clove, rosemary, sesame and thyme oil
- corn gluten
- d-Limonene
- diatomaceous earth
- eugenol
- fipronil (ONLY in containerized bait form)
- hydramethylnon (ONLY in containerized bait form or gel)
- hydrophobic extract of neem
- iron phosphate
- lemon eucalyptus oil
- methoprene
- orthoboric acid
- paraffinic oil
- petroleum oil
- picaridin
- potassium bicarbonate
- potassium soap (or salts) of fatty acids
- sodium tetraborate decahydrate
- soybean oil and cottonseed oil

---

*This pocket guide was developed by Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP) in San Rafael, 415/499-6528, with assistance from Ann Joseph Consulting.*

*Revised: February 2011*