

Know your responsibilities when using insecticides



The Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) register insecticides for use. The APVMA requires manufacturers to label insecticides with information for correct use of the product to ensure the chemical works as is intended and minimise the risk to public health, animals and the pest controller.

Ensure that you read and understand the label before you use an insecticide. Some insecticide containers also have a booklet containing relevant information. This booklet is part of the label and must be read before use. All safety directions on the label must be complied with to ensure the safe application of the insecticide.

Safety data sheets are also intended to be used by businesses to assess the risks of almost all hazardous chemicals in the workplace, particularly related to safe handling and storage, managing spills, first aid and transport. They are not regulated by the APVMA.

Your legal responsibility

When using insecticides as a licensed pest control operator, you must also comply with the conditions of licence under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 including the requirement to comply with the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992.

It is against the law to:

- increase the application rate of a insecticide;
- use a chemical product at intervals more frequent than stated on the label;
- contravene a 'DO NOT' statement on a insecticide label;
- use an unregistered chemical; or
- use a restricted use chemical to treat a pest not specified on the label.

For further information please visit apvma.gov.au