

REDUCING PESTICIDES

it's perfectly natural.



What pest control products are permitted under Toronto's Pesticide By-law?

Toronto's pesticide by-law permits the use of certain pest control products that pose very low if any health or environmental risks. Before you reach for any product, you must carefully read and follow all use and disposal directions on the label.

The by-law permits the following products:

- 1) **A product that uses pheromones to lure pests, sticky media to trap pests or "quick-kill" traps for vertebrate species considered pests such as mice and rats**
- 2) **A product that is or contains only the following "active ingredients"**
 - **A soap;**
 - **A mineral oil, also called dormant or horticultural oil;**
 - **Silicon dioxide, also called diatomaceous earth;**
 - **Biological pesticides, including Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) and nematodes;**
 - **Borax, also called boric acid or boracic acid;**
 - **Ferric phosphate;**
 - **Acetic acid;**
 - **Pyrethrum or pyrethrins;**
 - **Fatty acids;**
 - **Sulphur: and**
 - **Corn Gluten Meal.**

Always read the label. These ingredients are usually not the brand names that you will see in large type on the pesticide label. You will need to carefully read the label – the "active ingredient" is listed on the front label next to the word "Guarantee." For example, the label may read "*Guarantee: Silicon Dioxide...80%.*"

The label will tell you what pests a product is meant to control and how to apply the product. See the table that follows for more detailed information.

REMEMBER:

A healthy, strong lawn or garden will resist most pests on its own. Before you reach for any pesticide or permitted product check out the City's website or call 416-338-7600 for practical tips and ideas.

If you think you may have a pest problem:

1. **Correctly identify the pest.** Is it a chinch bug or an aphid, or a helpful ladybug?
2. **Try the natural approach.** A pest is often a sign of an unhealthy lawn or garden. Techniques such as proper watering, mulching and seeding will keep most pests under control.
3. **Try the proper permitted product.** If natural methods don't work, there may be a lower risk pest control product designed to work. Carefully read and follow label instructions.
4. **Consult an expert.** If you still experience a problem, consult a licensed professional or other plant health care expert for advice.

Lower Risk Pest Control Products Permitted under the Pesticide By-law

Permitted Product	Health Canada Registered Uses
Soap	Insecticide - Control insects such as aphids, mealybugs, spider mites, whitefly, soft brown scale, psyllids, rose slugs (sawfly larvae), pear slugs, earwigs, caterpillars, leafhoppers, beetles and elm leaf miners on houseplants, vegetables, fruits, shrubs, trees or greenhouse plantings - Some formulations kill moss on roofs, walks, woodwork, stucco, fences, lawns and in greenhouses - Used in flea soaps
Mineral Oil (Dormant or Horticultural Oil)	Insecticide - Controls insects such as scale insects, red spiders, mealybugs, whitefly, leaf rollers for fruit trees, ornamentals, roses
Silicon Dioxide (Diatomaceous earth)	Insecticide - Controls insects such as beetles, leafhoppers, vine borers, fruitworms on fruits and vegetables - Controls aphids, chafer beetles on roses and flowering plants - Indoor and outdoor control of ants, cockroaches, spiders, bedbugs, crickets, wasps, fleas, earwigs, slugs and crawling insects
Biological pesticides, including Bt (Bacillus thuringiensis) and nematodes	Biological Pesticides - a list of organisms or naturally-derived products (eg. bacteria, nematodes) classified as pesticides by federal and provincial agencies Bt – biological insecticide (larvicide) - used primarily against leaf-chewing larvae (caterpillars) of lepidopterous species (butterflies, moths). Can be used against mosquitoes and blackflies Nematodes – insecticide - for control of grubs on lawns (primarily May/June Beetle and Japanese Beetle larvae)
Borax / boracic acid / boric acid	Insecticide - used for outdoor control of ants and indoor control of cockroaches, ants, fleas, carpet beetles and silverfish
Ferric phosphate	Insecticide - outdoor control of slugs and snails
Acetic Acid (Horticultural vinegar)	Herbicide - for non-selective spot treatment of broadleaf and grassy weeds in and around the garden, on patios, sidewalks, driveways, under fences
Pyrethrum or pyrethrins	Insecticide - controls insects such as aphids, flies, mosquitoes, leafhoppers, earwigs, beetles on flowering plants, ornamentals and vegetables
Fatty Acids	Insecticide / Herbicide - Insecticidal Soaps are made from the potassium salt of fatty acids. These control insects such as aphids, mealybugs, spider mites, whitefly, soft brown scale, psyllids, rose slugs (sawfly larvae), pear slugs, earwigs, caterpillars, leafhoppers, beetles and elm leaf miners on houseplants, vegetables, fruits, shrubs, trees or greenhouse plantings - Formulations made exclusively from fatty acid have non-selective herbicidal properties. Can control weeds in and around the garden such as lamb's quarters, red root pigweed, chickweed and moss on roofs, walks, woodwork, stucco, fences, lawns and in greenhouses
Sulphur	Insecticide / Fungicide - Controls insects, mites and diseases (black spot, powdery mildew, rust) on fruit trees, vegetables, shrubs, roses and ornamentals
Corn Gluten Meal	Herbicide - For inhibition of seed germination of dandelion and crabgrass on lawns. Prevents the growth of weeds from seeds but does not kill established weeds.

NOTE: This table is not intended to describe all approved uses for products containing the “active ingredients” – consult the product label for detailed information and use directions. **Source:** Health Canada - Pest Management Regulatory Agency ELSE Database <http://www.eddenet.pmra-arla.gc.ca/4.0/4.01.asp> as of July 4, 2004.