

Province-wide pesticide ban came into effect this week just in time for Earth Day

# How to get your lawn off chemicals

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It's time to free your lawn of chemicals and pests. On Earth Day, April 22, the provincial cosmetic pesticides ban took effect. The ban prohibits the sale of pesticides and their use on lawns, gardens, parks and school yards.

Overriding municipal pesticide bylaws, the provincial ban establishes one set of easy-to-understand rules for homeowners and businesses.

The ban is also part of the government's toxics reduction strategy to reduce pollution and protect families from toxic chemicals.

"We will have eliminated this unnecessary risk to our environment, our families and especially our children," the Environment Minister, John Gerretsen said.

More than 250 products have been banned for sale and more than 80 pesticide ingredients were banned for cosmetic use.

According to the Organic Landscape Alliance, chemical-dependant lawns are highly susceptible to pests and diseases. Meanwhile, a healthy thick lawn can survive drought, temperature extremes and general wear and tear.

There are exceptions for public health and safety reasons, such as fighting West Nile Virus, killing stinging insects, such as wasps, controlling the spread of plants poisonous to the touch, such as poison ivy or hogweed, to protect the health of pets or to control fleas and to control pests that can cause structural damage to the home, such as termites and ants.

Also, several recreation and agricultural industries are allowed to use pesticides. That includes golf courses, specialty turf sports fields when used for national or international events, natural resources, agriculture fields and forests.

For more information, visit [www.ene.gov.on.ca](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca) or contact the Environment Ministry at 1-800-565-4923.

## PROPER DISPOSAL OF PESTICIDES

If you have pesticides stored in your garage or garden shed that are now banned, you can take them to the Household and Hazardous Waste Depots at 225 Garfield Write Blvd. in East Gwillimbury or Rodick Road (between 14th Avenue and Miller Avenue) in Markham.

Leftover pesticides should never be poured down the drain.

## TAKE ACTION

▶ For a complete list of banned products and ingredients, visit [www.ene.gov.on.ca](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca)



## CHEMICAL-FREE AND HEALTHY LAWNS

Here are some tips to keep a green, thick and healthy lawn without the use of chemicals.

- ▶ Aerate the lawn in early spring and late fall. This loosens up the soil so air, water and nutrients can reach the roots.
- ▶ Keep your lawn thick and healthy by regularly adding grass seed in the early spring and late fall. A thick lawn will choke out weeds.
- ▶ Let the grass grow. Cut the grass when it is about 6 to 8 cm in height.
- ▶ Feed it naturally: leave your lawn clippings on the lawn after you mow, they make an ideal and free fertilizer.
- ▶ Your lawn only needs about 2.5 cm. (1 inch) of water a week. Water deeply and infrequently to promote deep roots. Early morning is best, when more water will be absorbed than during the heat of day.
- ▶ Pluck weeds by hand. Spring is a good time to hand-pull weeds such as dandelions while the soil is damp and roots are not as long and tough.

## BANNED PESTICIDES

Here is a list of some of the products and brand names that are restricted under the new pesticide ban:

- ▶ Products containing 2,4-D as acid, amine salts, diethanol-amine salt or as low volatile esters
- ▶ Slug-em slug bait
- ▶ Raid house and garden pesticides
- ▶ Puroguard house and garden insecticides
- ▶ Wilson's insect spray
- ▶ Garden Master bug killer
- ▶ Armstrong house and garden insecticides
- ▶ No Name pesticides and insecticides
- ▶ Western Family House insect killer
- ▶ Green Earth bio-mists
- ▶ The Exterminator insecticides
- ▶ Wipe Out Total Weed and Grass herbicide
- ▶ Home Gardener insecticide
- ▶ Totalex Grass and Weed control
- ▶ Black Max bear repellent
- ▶ King Bug insecticide
- ▶ Co-op Garden insecticide

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