EXTERMINATOR — GUIDE

Pesticide safety: read the label before treatment

Ask for product details, site directions and re-entry instructions before the service starts.

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Ask the company for the proposed pesticide name and label before the visit. Tell it about children, pets, aquariums, food preparation and any access needs. Ask for preparation and re-entry directions in writing.

What the label tells you

EPA's Introduction to Pesticide Labels, accessed 2026-11-10, explains that a label defines who may use a pesticide and where, how much and how often it may be used. EPA says state and federal agencies enforce pesticide label requirements in the United States. This is a US source, not a statement of Canadian law.

For a Canadian property, ask for the label authorized for the product used there. Ask the relevant provincial authority about local requirements. Do not substitute a US label or a similar brand's instructions.

Read for your property and pest

Ask the company to show you the target pest and treatment site on the label. Check whether the proposed use is indoors, outdoors or in a restricted part of the property. A product name alone does not describe its permitted use.

Ask for the application area, method, preparation, protective measures and timing. If the quote and label seem inconsistent, ask the company to resolve the difference before work begins. Keep the label with the service record.

Do not invent a safe return time

There is no return time in this guide. Use the actual label and the company's written directions for the specific treatment. Ask how the company will tell occupants when they can return and what must remain undisturbed.

Ask how to handle treated surfaces, pet items, food and waste. If someone cannot follow the proposed preparation or leave as directed, tell the company in advance. Ask for another plan.

Store and report carefully

EPA's household label guidance says to read labels before buying, using, storing and disposing of products. Keep pesticides in their original labelled containers. Ask the company whether it leaves any product or monitoring equipment and who controls it.

If you suspect exposure, use the product's first aid instructions and seek help from a local poison service or emergency service as appropriate. Keep the product name and label available. Do not rely on the directory to diagnose symptoms or decide a treatment is safe.

Sources

All sources below were fetched and checked on 2026-11-10. Dates are access dates.

- US EPA, Introduction to Pesticide Labels. Accessed 2026-11-10.
- US EPA, Read the Label First: Protect Your Household. Accessed 2026-11-10.

Frequently asked questions

Does this guide replace a local inspection?

No. Confirm the pest, current licence and treatment scope with the company and relevant authority.