Our Water Our World is a partnership between local government agencies and businesses, working together to reduce water pollution caused by pesticides. This pocket guide offers product choices that are less toxic to people, pets and the environment. For a more complete list and pest-specific fact sheets, visit www.ourwaterourworld.org.

Are Pest Control Products Really Necessary?

Products (even those named in this guide) should not be the first line of defense against pests! Good pest management focuses 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 compost or slow-release fertilizers that allow grass and plants to absorb nutrients efficiently, or attracting “good bugs” — such as ladybugs and green lacewings — that help keep pests like aphids and mealybugs under control.

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

Products to Avoid

- **Aerosols and home foggers** disperse chemicals in a way that significantly increases the risk of harmful exposure to unintentional targets — such as people and pets.
- **Metaldehyde snail baits** contribute to hundreds of pet poisonings every year.
- **Products with active ingredient names ending in “thrin”** belong to a class of pesticides called pyrethroids, which are a threat to water quality and highly toxic to aquatic insects and crustaceans. The exception to this is pyrethrin, which is produced naturally from the chrysanthemum flower.
- **Lawn pesticides** designed to kill weeds or insects are rarely, if ever, needed for home lawns. The chemicals in these products 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.beyondpesticides.org/lawn/index.htm

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

**Ants**
- Amdro Kills Ants (liquid bait)
- Combat Source Kill 4 Ant Bait (bait station)
- Orange Guard
- Safe Ant and Crawling Insect Killer
- Tanglefoot Pest Barrier
- Terro Ant Killer II Liquid Ant Bait Station

**Aphids**
- Bonide All Seasons Spray Oil
- Greenlight Rose Defense
- Insecticidal Soaps (e.g. Bonide, Garden Safe, Concern)
- Monterey Horticultural Oil
- Ortho Volk Oil Spray
- Safer Brand Yard and Garden Insect Killer
- Bug Blaster (pressure spray hose attachment)

**Cockroaches**
- Black Flag Roach Motel
- Combat Source Kill bait stations
- Combat Source Kill Max Roach bait stations
- Concern Diatomaceous Earth Crawling Insect Killer
- Hot Shot MaxAttrax Boric Acid Powder
- Roach Prufe
- Safer Crawling Insect Killer
- Safer Roach and Ant Killing Powder
- Victor Roach Magnet

**Fleas**
- Concern Diatomaceous Earth Crawling Insect Killer
- Ecology Works Dustmite and Flea Control
- Insecticidal Soaps (work on adult fleas; apply outdoors where pets may lie)
- Safer Brand Ant and Crawling Insect Killer

**Mealybugs**
- Bonide All Seasons Oil
- Lily Miller Superior Type Oil
- Monterey Horticultural Oil
- Ortho Volk Oil
- Stoller Natur’l Oil
- Summit Year Round Oil

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

**Mites**
- Bonide All Seasons Spray Oil
- Bonide RX 3 in 1
- Garden Safe Fungicide 3
- Greenlight Rose Defense
- Lily Miller Superior Type Oil
- Master Nursery Pest Fighter Oil
- Monterey Horticultural Oil
- Ortho Volk Oil Spray
- Summit Year Round Oil

**Snails and Slugs**
- Bonide Slug Magic
- Copper Barrier Tape
- Escar-Gol Slug Control
- Garden Safe Slug & Snail Bait
- Natria Snail & Slug Killer Bait
- Sluggo
- Spectracide Snail & Slug Killer Bait
- Worry Free Slug & Snail Bait

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

**Yellowjackets**
- Traps
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**LESS TOXIC ACTIVE INGREDIENTS**

- 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
- Cottonseed oil
- D-Limonene
- Diatomaceous earth
- Eugenol
- Fipronil (ONLY use in containerized bait form)
- Hydramethylnon (ONLY use in containerized bait or gel form)
- 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