

Pesticide Education Program



The Ohio State University Extension

What Retailers Should Know about Chlorpyrifos

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced an agreement with pesticide manufacturers to remove many uses of chlorpyrifos (often sold as Dursban or Lorsban). **As of December 31, 2001, no chlorpyrifos can be sold for home use products**, (except ant and roach bait products in child-resistant packaging) and some indoor and outdoor non-residential uses where children could not be exposed.

Legal Responsibility of Retailers

The retail sale or distribution of chlorpyrifos products allowing home use or other cancelled uses after December 31, 2001, may represent a violation of pesticide law. Retailers should purchase only product that can be sold by December 31, 2001. Any stock left after the deadline will be the retailers responsibility to dispose of in a legal and responsible manner, which may result in additional costs to the retailer. Retailers are cautioned against purchasing stocks of chlorpyrifos products with residential and other cancelled uses unless they can be reasonably assured that:

- Product was manufactured *before* December 1, 2000 and
- Product will be completely sold from their shelves by December 31, 2001

Identifying Chlorpyrifos

There are more than 800 different household products that contain chlorpyrifos, which are sold under numerous name brands. The best way to check for products that contain chlorpyrifos is to **read the product label**:

- Chlorpyrifos or Dursban is listed as an active ingredient, **or**
- The chemical name is on the label: "O, O-diethyl O-(3, 5, 6-trichloro-2 pyridinyl) phosphorothiate"
- Contact the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network at (800) 858-7378 if you need assistance determining whether your product contains chlorpyrifos.

What is Chlorpyrifos?

Chlorpyrifos is a chemical used in a variety of insecticide products that have been registered with EPA since 1965. It is widely used on farms, in homes (residential) and in industrial, commercial institutional settings (hospitals, schools, etc). Chlorpyrifos products control lawn insects, ants, cockroaches, fleas, ticks, mosquitoes, and termites. Chlorpyrifos' most common trade names are Dursban, Empire 20, Equity, and Whitmire PT 270. Lorsban is a trade name for agricultural-use products.

Information Resources

Information about chlorpyrifos and the agreement can be obtained from EPA's website at www.epa.gov/pesticides/op/chlorpyrifos.htm or by calling the Office of Pesticide Programs at (703) 305-5017.