

# "Children at Risk"

## *A Call to Action by our local Elected Officials* **Widespread Pesticide Use in Public Housing, Schools and Parks**

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Are you too busy in your day to read a document that could save a child from receiving a disease or a disability that perhaps you are contributing to? Perhaps even a life?

Attorney General Eliot Spitzer,

Don't be trusting if your pest control professional, an institution - or the manufacturer's label - tells you that the name of the pesticide that is about to be used around your child is called something cute and generic. Think protectively. Be informed. Be cautious.

The EPA has determined that some pesticide ingredients may cause cancer, however, it does not require that the product carry that message.

Do you want an IPM that is truly effective for your community, one that is safe for children, adults, elderly, pets and our environment.

***Our Cedar Oil Formulation is a **FEDERALLY EXEMPT LISTED PRODUCT 25(b)** which the EPA has classified cedar oil as a minimum risk pesticide " poses insignificant risks to human health or the environment." The EPA further noted that the agency is "responding to society's increasing demand for more natural and benign methods of pest control." Deregulation of cedar by-products will encourage the use of safer pesticides***

Quit using chemical, pest control companies and their lobbyist to act as professional spokespersons for the spraying of poisons around our children.

**STOP THE WIDESPREAD SPRAYING OF TOXIC CHEMICALS. HISTORY IS NOW AND HAS BEEN TELLING US THAT THEY ARE NOT SAFE...IN ANY AMOUNTS...**

Revolutionary Cedar oil formulation has been developed and scientifically tested by Iowa St. U. for the USDA on behalf of the troops stationed in Iraq, Rutgers U. Dr. Wang for arthropods & ICR International labs out of Baltimore Maryland to be as effective if not more effective than their chemical counterparts. A 100% kill rate by all three institutions has been identified including their eggs.

A letter that was put together by government officials should act as a wake-up call for all those who think that ethics and morality rule when it comes to the manufacture and sale of chemical pesticides.

The report was entitled "Pest Control in Public Housing, Schools and Parks: Urban Children at Risk," and was put together by Peter Lehner, the bureau chief of the Environmental Protection Bureau of the New York State Attorney General's Office and authored by Michael H. Sorgan, Ph.D., chief scientist, Thomas Congdon, policy analyst, and Christine Primi, Stephanie Lamster and Jennifer Louise-Jacques, science aides of the Environmental Protection Bureau of the Attorney General's office. In the report's foreword, Peter J. Landrigan, M.D., M.Sc., Professor and Chair, Department of Community and Preventive Medicine, Director, Center of Children's Health and Environment, Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

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Pesticides used in homes, public housing, schools, apartment and businesses in and around urban area's include carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, chemicals capable of causing birth defects, and chemicals that can cause brain damage....Children are especially sensitive to pesticides, because they live and play close to the floor, breathe close to the ground and constantly put their fingers into their mouths. Children's developing organ systems are highly vulnerable to pesticides. Unfortunately these chemicals are registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Their use is permitted under federal and state law ***despite their well-recognized toxicity***. This dangerous situation has arisen because until very recently pesticide standards were set through a balancing process that weighed ***health benefits against claims - often poorly supported claims*** for the economic benefits of pesticide use. The two lessons to be learned here are **(1)** that governmental sanction is *not* a guarantee of pesticide safety, and **(2)** that agencies and consumers need to learn about the hazards of the pesticides that they use and take intelligent steps to reduce pesticide use, they pose grave dangers to human health, especially the health of children. Toxic pesticides are used extensively in apartments, schools and parks across many state, county and cities by government agencies and commercial applicators, as well as by residents.

This letter should be a wake-up call to concerned parents, citizens, state and local agencies to be more active in reducing the exposure of children to pesticides." Children spend about 90% of their time either in their homes, at school or in public parks. These places are often treated with pesticides that could threaten children's health. ***It is entirely possible to control pest problems without resorting to the use of toxic pesticides.*** With children's health at stake, managers, superintendents, city leaders and so called environmental Stewarts of these facilities and residents should make every effort to eliminate pest problems without using toxic pesticides." Not only is exposure to toxic chemicals dangerous and unnecessary, given the availability of alternatives, it also represents a missed opportunity to improve the lives of public housing residents. The very steps one takes to pest proof buildings without chemicals - - also improve the overall quality, safety, and livability of urban residences

According to the report, asthma rates among urban children from lower socioeconomic areas have reached epidemic rates. Scientist have found that asthma may be exacerbated by many irritants, including the wastes and remains of insect and rodent pests, and adds: "Some may argue that pesticides are necessary to control these pests and eliminate them as triggers of asthmatic attacks. In fact, some of the pesticides used to control these same pests also contribute to the asthma problem."

In addition to the reduction of the frequency of disease caused by chemical pesticides, especially in our children, the money saved by states and local officials because diseases in children that are caused by pesticides and other toxic chemicals cost the States billions of dollars in health care costs each year, and because chemical pesticides are themselves very expensive. By reducing the use of chemical pesticides, they will save still more money in the long run by preventing unnecessary disease and disability.

**It goes without saying that although children are the most vulnerable to toxic pesticide use, everyone and everything in our environment - is at risk as well. Most Pesticides that are sold under brand names, by themselves do not identify**

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## **the pesticide.**

What follows is a list of pesticide that have been identified as having harmful active ingredients and that are used by many residents. Some of them are all too familiar and readily available in stores. A synopsis of the possible and probable health risks associated with these products follows each list.

### **PYRETHRINS**

*Hot Shot Flying Insect Killer Plus; Raid Max Roach & Ant Killer 6; Drione Insecticide; Raid Ant & Roach Killer (#6 & #16); Raid Max Roach & Ant Killer; TAT Roach & Ant Killer w/Residual Action III; Ficam Plus Synergized Pyrethrins; Hotshot Roach & Ant Killer; Spectracide Pro Residual Insecticide Aerosol; PT 565 Plus Pyrethrum; CB-80 Extra Insecticide; and Pro Control II Total Release Fogger*

Pyrethrins are naturally occurring substances - extracted from chrysanthemums - that are commonly used as insecticides. "Natural" is not always "non-toxic," and pyrethrins are not devoid of toxic effects. Pyrethrins are allergenic, and may be a particular problem for asthmatics. In addition, they have been classified by EPA as "Likely Carcinogens." Often, products containing pyrethrins also contain organophosphates or n-methyl carbamates to enable a quick "knockdown" of the pest populations; in addition piperonyl butoxide may be added as a "synergist," - an ingredient added to enhance the activity of the active ingredient. Like pyrethrins, piperonyl butoxide - a naturally occurring substance - enhances the actions of some insecticides, including pyrethrins, organophosphates and carbamates by interfering with the target insect's natural ability to break down the active pesticidal ingredient. In humans, piperonyl butoxide also interferes with the ability to break down certain toxic substances. It is also classified by the EPA as a possible human carcinogen.

### **ORGANOPHOSPHATES**

*Black Jack Roach and Ant Killer IV; Zoecon Catalyzt Emulsified in Water Insecticide; Raid Ant Bait; Raid Ant Controller*

Organophosphates include such insecticides as chlorpyrifos, diazinon, and propetamphos. They affect the nervous system of both insects (their target) and mammals (including humans) by disturbing the chemical steps involved in transmitting a nerve impulse. When normal function is disrupted by organophosphates, the nervous system is overstimulated, producing a variety of adverse effects. Because all poisons in this chemical group act in the same manner, exposures to multiple pesticides would be cumulative in their effects.

Organophosphate poisoning in humans can result in a wide variety of effects on the body. Early symptoms include headache, nausea and dizziness and may progress to muscular twitching, weakness and tremors, incoordination, vomiting, diarrhea and visual disturbances. Mental confusion and psychosis may occur, and ultimately convulsions, coma, respiratory failure and death may ensue. Repeated exposure to levels of organophosphates too low to cause the acute poisoning described above may still cause persistent anorexia (loss of appetite), weakness and malaise. In a recent report, patients exposed to professionally applied chlorpyrifos in their environment suffered a variety of nervous system effects. Several of them experienced memory loss and other mental deficits which persisted for months after exposure. Recent studies have demonstrated that newborn animals suffer long-term effects on their nervous and immune systems as a result of exposure to chlorpyrifos. These effects may persist for life.

### **CARBAMATES**

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*Black Flag Ant & Roach Killer; Ficam Plus Synergized Pyrethrins (classified as a Restricted Use Product); Raid Max Roach & Ant Killer; Black Flag Ant & Roach Killer; Raid Max Roach & Ant Killer; Ficam W; Garden Tech Sevin - 5; Ready To Use 5% Dust Bug Killer; Raid Max Roach & Ant Killer; TAT Roach Killer VI*

Carbamate insecticides (often called n-methyl carbamates) also interfere with the transmission of nerve impulses. In fact, they act by disturbing the same chemical step in normal nerve transmissions that is affected by organophosphates, although the carbamate interference is generally of shorter duration. The carbamates include such chemicals as baygon and carbaryl.

The effects of carbamate poisoning are very similar to those of organophosphates. General malaise, muscle weakness, dizziness and sweating are common, as are headaches, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. In more serious cases, there may be incoordination, blurred vision, slurred speech, labored breathing and tightness of the chest. Death can result from the respiratory effects. There is also some concern about effects of some carbamates (e.g. carbaryl) on the fetus.

## **BORIC ACID/BORATES**

*Roach-Wrecker Boric Acid Roach Killer; Zap-A-Roach Boric Acid Roach Killer; Drax Ant Kill Gel; Niban F-G Bait; PIC Boric Acid Roach Killer III; Knock-A-Roach Boric Acid; Stapleton's MRF 2000 Paste Formula*

## **PYRETHROIDS**

*Black Jack Roach & Ant Killer IV; Raid Ant & Roach Killer 17; Raid Max Roach & Ant Killer 6; Hot Shot Roach & Ant Killer 6; Hot Shot Roach & Ant Killer 2; Raid Ant & Roach Killer (#6 & # 16); Raid Ant Killer 271; Raid Wasp & Hornet Killer 271; Raid Max Roach & Ant Killer; TAT Roach & Ant Killer w/Residual Action III; Tempo 20 WP Insecticide; Spectricide Pro Residual Insecticide Aerosol; CB Stinger Wasp & Hornet Jet Spray; Demand CS Insecticide; Hot Shot Flying Insect Killer Plus; Pegasus Ant & Roach Killer; Powerhouse Ant & Roach Killer; Powerhouse Ant & Roach Killer; Powerhouse House & Garden Bug Killer; PT 565 Plus Pyrethrum; Suspend SC Insecticide; Tempo 2 Insecticide*

Pyrethroids are synthetic insecticides that are chemically similar to naturally occurring pyrethrins, but are modified to be more stable in the environment. They do not decompose as rapidly as the pyrethrins when exposed to light and heat. While the pyrethroids are generally considered to be "less toxic" choices for insect control, they are nonetheless capable of causing adverse reactions. Large doses of pyrethroids may cause nervous system effects such as incoordination, tremors, vomiting, diarrhea and irritability to sound and touch. More common than these extreme effects are sensations of stinging, burning, itching and tingling, which may progress to numbness. Although the pyrethroid-containing products commonly used for insect control in residential and institutional settings are general use products, some pyrethroid-containing products are classified as "restricted use pesticides" because of their potential to cause tumors or because of their extreme acute toxicity.

## **HYDRAMETHYLNON**

*Combat Plus Roach Killing Gel; Maxforce Professional Insect Control Roach Killer; Siege Gel Bait; Maxforce Professional Insect Control Roach Killer Bait Gel*

Based on the occurrence of lung tumors in laboratory animals exposed to hydramethylnon, EPA has classified hydramethylnon as a possible human carcinogen. Short-term exposure to hydramethylnon can cause irritation of the eyes and respiratory system.

## **COUMARINS/INANDIONES**

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*Contract All-Weather Blox; Contract Rodenticide Ready to Use Place Pac; Maki Rodenticide Bait Packs; Talon G; Rozol Ready to Use Rat & Mouse Bait; Eaton's Blocks; Final All-Weather Blox*

The rodenticides applied by institutions were primarily products which contained coumarins (bromadiolone and brodifacoum) or indandiones (chlorphacinone and diphacinone) as active ingredients. The coumarins and indandiones are chemically related to each other, and have similar toxic effects. Both groups of chemicals are known as anticoagulants. They interfere with the blood's inability to clot while simultaneously disrupting the ability of capillaries, the body's smallest blood vessels, to contain the blood. This combination of toxic effects predisposes the rodent, or human, to widespread internal bleeding. Simply put, a child who swallowed a sufficient amount of these rodent poisons could bleed to death internally.