



The experts in pest control

DO-IT-YOURSELF PEST CONTROL THE SAFE WAY

Trigger-happy cleaning staff can cause much harm, not only to the health of co-workers, but also to customers and your business' reputation.

While pests have to be controlled, it is of the utmost importance that cleaning staff are properly trained in the use of pesticides, even those apparently harmless over-the-counter products. Read the labels properly, as some of the ingredients may be as harmful to asthmatics, elderly people and growing children as they are to insects.

Terry Ivison, Technical and Training Manager of Rentokil says, "Look out for products containing Chlorpyrifos, an organophosphate which has recently been banned by the Department of Agriculture or Dichlorovos, a fumigant that can aggravate asthmatic conditions. Cleaners should be properly instructed in the use of any pesticide."

"If possible, hire a qualified professional using the correct protective equipment.† Depending on the type of service, employees may be asked to leave early or come in later so as not to be present while the service is in progress."

Ivison says the effectiveness of over-the-counter products may vary. "Some may be effective if used correctly. However, due to the fact that the active ingredient may have been decreased in order to be seen as safer, the consumer may use more of the product to get a result. In the end pests may become resistant to that particular active ingredient."

Organophosphates work by poisoning the nervous system of pests. "They can be retained in the blood if ingested and can build up causing illness and in extreme cases death. Because of this Rentokil does not use products containing Chlorpyrifos or other organophosphates. It is part of our green-is-better approach," explains Ivison. Asthmatics may also have an exaggerated reaction to ingredients such as Dichlorovos, which could trigger an attack.

Keys to Safety

When buying over-the-counter products wise up and only buy what you need:

1. Identify the pest that needs to be controlled and find a product that caters specifically to that pest.
2. Pay attention to the label and see that cleaners follow these to the letter.
3. Apply only as much as needed and don't overuse.
4. When storing leftover product always keep it in its original container.

DO NOT TRANSFER TO UNMARKED CONTAINERS.

5. Always keep containers sealed and stored out of reach of children and in a well ventilated area, and pay attention to symbols indicating flammability, toxicity and explosiveness.

In South Africa the use of pictograms on label instructions are a requirement and all pesticides should be labelled in this fashion. Application should thus be done by a knowledgeable person in the absence of the elderly and children. If you are unsure it is advisable to make use of a professionally trained person, who according to South African law should be registered with the department of agriculture.

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