

## WHAT IS *OUR WATER OUR WORLD (OWOW)?*



*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](http://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](http://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](http://www.beyondpesticides.org/lawn/index.htm)

\*Look at the front of the label under “Active Ingredients.”



## **Pests Bugging You?**

A Pocket Guide for  
Choosing Products Less Toxic  
to People and Pets

[www.ourwaterourworld.org](http://www.ourwaterourworld.org)

## PEST AND LESS TOXIC ALTERNATIVES

### Ants

Amdro Kills Ants (liquid bait)  
Combat Source Kill 4 Ant Bait (bait station)  
Orange Guard  
Safer 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

## PEST AND LESS TOXIC ALTERNATIVES

### 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  
Monterey Safe-T-Cide  
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

*This pocket guide was developed by Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP), San Rafael, CA, 415/499-6528, with assistance from Ann Joseph Consulting.*

## PEST AND LESS TOXIC ALTERNATIVES

### 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-Go! 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

*Active ingredients are listed on the front of the product. This is a partial list of active ingredients found in products considered less toxic. For a more complete list, go to [www.ourwaterourworld.org](http://www.ourwaterourworld.org).*

Abamectin	
Ammoniated soap of fatty acids	Hydramethlynon (ONLY use in containerized bait or gel form)
Bacillus subtilis	
Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis	Hydrophobic extract of neem
Borax and boric acid	Iron phosphate
Canola oil	Lemon eucalyptus oil
Castor oil, vegetable wax, gum resin	Methoprene
Citric acid	Orthoboric acid
Clove, rosemary, sesame and thyme oil	Paraffinic oil
Corn gluten	Petroleum oil
Cottonseed oil	Picaridin
D-Limonene	Potassium bicarbonate
Diatomaceous earth	Potassium soap (or salts) of fatty acids
Eugenol	Sodium tetraborate decahydrate
Fipronil (ONLY use in containerized bait form)	Soybean oil