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STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL APPLICATOR: GUIDANCE DOCUMENT Label Changes for Pyrethroid Non-agricultural Outdoor Products

Why are these labels being changed?

Recently, pesticide products containing insecticides in the chemical class known as pyrethroids have undergone a series of label changes. These changes are in response to water quality monitoring studies that found significant amounts of pyrethroid insecticides in sediments of urban creeks. Pyrethroids are highly toxic to aquatic organisms, accumulate in sediments and thus produce an increased risk of causing harm to invertebrates and other creatures living within sediments.

What is currently happening?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is requiring revised “Environmental Hazard Statements” and general “Directions for Use” for pyrethroid pesticide products used in non-agricultural outdoor settings. These label changes are intended to reduce pyrethroid movement into non-target areas through runoff or spray drift that may occur during applications. Pyrethroid products containing the new label language are now in the marketplace. Both consumer products and those designed for use by pest management professionals (PMPs) are affected by these changes.

These new requirements will result in changing use patterns for the prevention and control of general household pests, lawn and ornamental pests as well as termites and other wood-destroying organisms. New language will be found on pyrethroid products formulated as liquid concentrates, broadcast granules, dusts and ready-to-use liquid mixtures. Older products that do not have new label restrictions can continue to be used according to the attached label.

Broadcast applications to large surfaces such as exterior walls of buildings, patios, or concrete walkways will no longer be allowed. Treat where the pest is or will enter a structure (around windows, doors, or other openings), not the entire side of a house.

What will these changes mean to me and my customers?

Questions and concerns have come from the pest control industry as to how some of the new label language will be interpreted and enforced by the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA). In order to assist in clarifying the Department’s position concerning the new requirements, this guidance document has been developed.

All outdoor applications must be limited to spot* or crack-and-crevice treatments only, **except** for the following permitted uses:

1. Treatment to soil or vegetation around structures;
2. Applications to lawns, turf, and other vegetation;
3. Applications to the side of a building, up to a maximum of 3 feet above grade;

4. Applications to underside of eaves or soffits, doors and windows protected from rainfall by a covering, overhang, awning or other structure;
5. A pin stream application, defined as one inch wide, or less.

[*A spot treatment is not to exceed two square feet; making adjacent spot treatments to cover a large area is not allowed.]

If the application does not fall into one of the exceptions noted above, then the application is limited to spot or crack and crevice treatment only. This new language *does allow* for the continuous treatment to the underside of eaves of a structure. Treatment to the underside of eaves of a structure is *not* intended to describe the ground underneath the eaves. The exemption also provided for spot treating harborage areas. It does not allow for broadcast treatments to the structures above 3 feet above grade or broadcast applications to impervious surfaces.

Pyrethroids used for termite pre-treatments have additional guidelines including:

- The treatment site must be covered prior to a rain event in order to prevent run-off of the pesticide into non-target areas.
- Do not treat soil that is water saturated or frozen.
- Do not apply within 10 feet of storm drains. Do not apply within 25 feet of aquatic habitats (such as, but not limited to, lakes, reservoirs, rivers, permanent streams, marshes or ponds, estuaries, and commercial fish farm ponds.
- Do not make on-grade applications when sustained wind speeds are above 10 mph (at application site) at nozzle end height.

Do not treat when raining.

Do not apply to the point of runoff – this pertains to both liquids and granular formulations that may be watered into a lawn after an application.

Keep out of gutters or drains to prevent movement into bodies of water.

Do not apply directly to impervious horizontal surfaces such as sidewalks, driveways and patios except as a crack and crevice application. During application, do not allow pesticide to enter or run off into storm drains, drainage ditches, gutters or surface waters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

EPA's website <http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reevaluation/environmental-hazard-statment.html>

Contact the Georgia Department of Agriculture Structural Pest Section at 404-656-3641.

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READ AND FOLLOW THE LABEL!

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