



Clean Annapolis River Project

Pesticide Inventory Domestic Sector Fact Sheet

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Pesticide Uses Around the Home

Pesticides are used around the home to control, destroy or repel unwanted plants, insects and rodents. They are also used to disinfect swimming pools and spas and protect outdoor wooden structures from microorganisms that cause decay.



Methodology

Pesticide use information was gathered from homeowners by conducting a mail survey. One thousand questionnaires were mailed out to watershed residents. The survey contained questions on the use of herbicides, insecticides, insect repellents, rodenticides, slug & snail baits, fungicides, swimming pool and spa disinfectants, flea control products and wood preservatives. A total of 170 completed questionnaires were received.

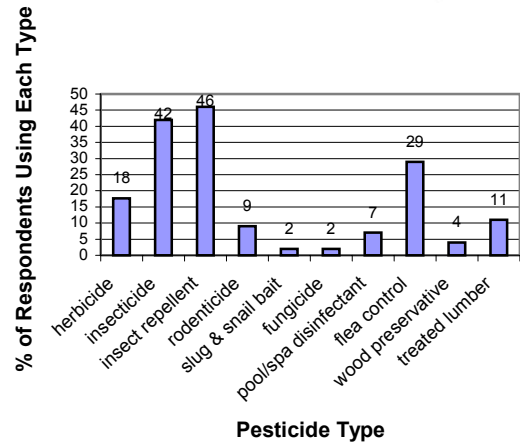
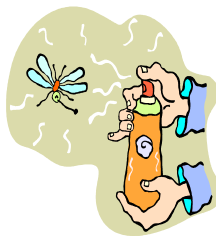


Figure 1. Pesticide types included in the survey questionnaire vs. percentage of respondents having used these products in the last year.

Also, 24 retail stores were visited and asked to share sales information on the quantity of pesticides sold in the watershed in the last year. The following types of stores were contacted:

- Department store
- Garden centre
- Grocery store
- Building supply store
- Hardware store
- Veterinarian's office
- Pet store
- Swimming pool/spa supply store



Results

Household Pesticide Use Survey Results

Survey results indicated that 23% of respondents had not applied any pesticides in the last year, with 77% of respondents indicating the use of at least one type of pesticide. Figure 1 indicates the percentage of respondents using each type of pesticide included in the questionnaire.



Active ingredients applied by the 170 survey respondents totaled 142.40kg. Based on these results, it was calculated that an average of 0.84kg of active ingredients were applied per household. Extrapolation of data to include all households in the watershed increases this total to 13,400kg of active ingredients. Swimming pool and spa disinfectants made up the majority of this total (88%), followed by herbicides (8%) and insecticides (3%).

Retail Store Data

Of the 24 retail operations contacted, 13 chose to provide sales data. Collectively, stores reported selling 254kg of active ingredients. Once extrapolated to all retail stores in the watershed, the total increased to approximately 1,143kg. This is much less than the quantity obtained in the household survey. Most of the sales data, however, were obtained from small retail stores with very little information coming from larger stores, resulting in an underestimation of the amount of active ingredients sold. Furthermore, household survey results indicated that swimming pool and spa disinfectants were the most commonly applied active ingredients by a wide margin. Very little data were acquired on the sale of these products in retail stores.