

# THE REASON

## WHAT ARE PESTICIDES?



Pesticides include herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, and other poisons.

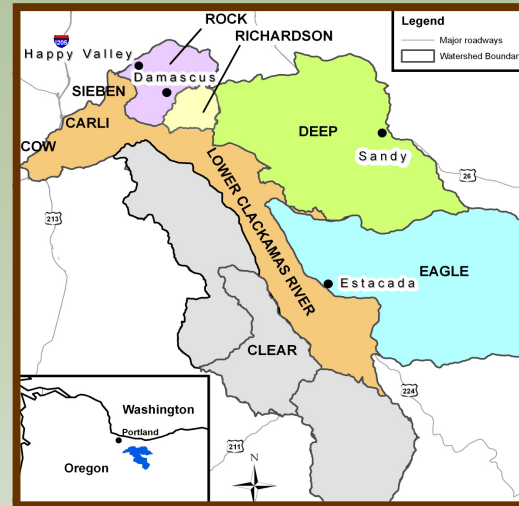
Pesticides are commonly used in schools, parks, yards, gardens, farms, and along roads. Although the agriculture industry is the largest user of pesticides, residential use is on the rise — homeowners in the US apply at least 90 million pounds of pesticides to their lawns and gardens every year. That's equivalent to the weight of over 5000 school buses!



1. Pesticide Action Network of America, [www.panna.org](http://www.panna.org)

# THE RESPONSIBILITY

## WHERE DO PESTICIDES GO?



This figure illustrates the subbasins where water was sampled and analyzed by the USGS. Waterways sampled include the lower Clackamas River, Cow, Carli, Sieben, Rock, Richardson, Deep, Eagle, and Clear Creeks.

2. Carpenter, K.D., Sobieszczyk, Steven, Arnsberg, A.J., & Rinella F.A., 2008, Pesticide occurrence and distribution in the lower Clackamas River basin, Oregon, 2000–2005: U.S. Geological Survey. <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2008/5027>

In this study a total of 119 water samples were analyzed, detecting 63 different types of pesticide compounds. Ninety-seven percent of samples collected from tributaries contained 2 or more types of pesticides. All 8 of the tributaries sampled contained pesticides, with 7 tributaries having levels that exceeded standards set to protect aquatic-life. Although the levels of pesticides did not exceed human health standards, it is a signal that the health our waterways is threatened! <sub>2</sub>

# THE RISK

## WHY ARE PESTICIDES RISKY?

Pesticides have many negative side-effects, affecting both human health and the environment. In the Clackamas River basin, salmon populations are declining. The presence of pesticides in our streams and rivers may be a contributing factor in this decline. When salmon are exposed to even small traces of certain chemicals, it can result in a decreased ability to fight disease, impaired swimming ability, stunted growth, and an increased risk to predators. Also, since salmon rely on their sense of smell during migration, pesticides can disrupt their ability to navigate to their spawning grounds.



## MULCH YOUR GARDEN

Mulching is one of the best things that you can do for the health of your garden. Your yard “trash” such as grass clippings or wood chips, can be recycled as mulch. Mulching around plants improves soil quality and suppresses weeds reducing the need to use pesticides!



## PLANT NATIVE VEGETATION

Plants that are native to the Pacific Northwest are adapted for our weather patterns of dry summers and wet winters. Native plants require minimal watering and are more weed- and insect-resistant, thus saving you both time and money!



# THE REASSURANCE

## CAN I HELP KEEP MY WATER SAFE ?

**YES**, you can help keep your drinking water safe! Although the current levels of pesticides is far below dangerous thresholds, their presence is a warning sign. The time to act is now, **BEFORE** it develops into a big problem. Here are a few simple actions that you can take to and protect your watershed. For more tips visit: [www.clackamasriver.org](http://www.clackamasriver.org)

## REDUCE YOUR PESTICIDE USE

Frequently, homeowners apply more pesticide than needed, which can lead to pesticide-resistant weeds and insects! If pesticide use is unavoidable, be sure to follow the directions, spot treat an area, avoid application during windy conditions or before heavy rains, and choose the least-toxic alternative.



## USE YOUR HANDS

Rather than spraying your entire lawn with chemicals, remove weeds using physical means, such as hand tools & pulling. Or be creative —try alternative methods: Set out barriers and traps to put a stop to pesky insects!



## THE REMOVAL

### HOW CAN I GET RID OF UNWANTED PESTICIDES?

Safe disposal of pesticides is crucial for you, your family, community, and your environment. Always follow these simple rules when disposing of pesticides —

- **Never** dump pesticides in a stream, ravine, or field
- **Never** pour pesticides down the sewer, sink, or toilet
- **Never** throw pesticides in the trash
- **Always** dispose unused or unwanted pesticides **at no cost** at the Metro South Collection site —

Next to the Home Depot  
2001 Washington St  
Oregon City

For more information visit —  
[www.metro-region.org](http://www.metro-region.org)

To find out about neighborhood pesticide *Round Up* days, call the Recycling Hotline —

**503.234.3000**

### PLEASE HELP US!

Please take a few moments to fill out our online survey to help us assess what is happening in our Clackamas watershed. Just visit [www.clackamasriver.org](http://www.clackamasriver.org) and click on the *Pesticide Survey* tab.

## THE RESOURCES

### WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

For more resources on alternatives to pesticides, explore the websites listed below —

**CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL**  
[www.clackamasriver.org](http://www.clackamasriver.org)

**NW COALITION AGAINST PESTICIDES**  
[www.pesticide.org](http://www.pesticide.org)

**PESTICIDE ACTION NETWORK**  
[www.panna.org](http://www.panna.org)

**WAYS TO HAVE A HEALTHIER LAWN**  
[www.healthylawns.org](http://www.healthylawns.org)  
[www.organicgardentips.com](http://www.organicgardentips.com)

**WATERSHED HEALTH**  
[www.cleanriversandstreams.org](http://www.cleanriversandstreams.org)

**RECYCLING INFORMATION**  
[www.deq.state.or.us/wmc](http://www.deq.state.or.us/wmc)  
[www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org)

**US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT**  
<http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2008/5027>

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## QUESTIONS ?

### QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER?

#### Contact:

**CLACKAMAS RIVER WATER PROVIDERS**  
14275 S. Clackamas River Road  
Oregon City, OR 97045  
**(503) 723-3510**

[kims@clackamasproviders.org](mailto:kims@clackamasproviders.org)



### QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR WATERSHED?

#### Contact:

**CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL**  
**(503) 558-0558**

[laura@clackamasriver.org](mailto:laura@clackamasriver.org)

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



# HOW TO REDUCE YOUR PESTICIDE USE

The pathway to  
healthier streams  
and rivers