



Town of Lexington Board of Health

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To All Homeowners: Lawn Maintenance, Health, and the Environment

Many homeowners and businesses treat their lawns with pesticides and herbicides to reduce weeds, grubs and other pests. Before you or your lawn service work on the grass around your home this year, the Lexington Board of Health asks you to consider the following issues about pesticide and herbicide usage:

Lawn Pesticides and Herbicides Affect Water Supplies. Since Lexington lies upstream of other communities, the chemicals we use here can enter the water supplies of other towns nearby.

Lawn Pesticides May Affect Human Health. Many pesticides or their breakdown products often persist in the environment. Chemicals on your lawns may cause negative health effects through low level, frequent exposures.

Pesticides Affect Children More Than Adults. Children tend to have higher exposures to pesticides when they play on lawns, on carpets onto which pesticides are tracked, and through normal hand-to-mouth behaviors. Children are also more sensitive to the effects of pesticides than adults.

No Pesticide Is Completely Safe. Pesticides and herbicides are toxic to insects, animals or plants. Just last year, the EPA took two commonly used household pesticides, chlorpyrifos (Dursban™ or Lorsban™), and diazinon, off the market.

If you use a lawn service, ask your contractor about safer alternatives to pesticides. Learn about conditions and methods that minimize weed growth and create a better environment for your lawn. Pesticides are not necessary for the health of your lawn. In fact, long-term use of pesticides may actually destroy the natural environment in which healthy grass grows best.

The Lexington Board of Health asks you to investigate and support efforts that reduce toxics in your environment. For more information, call (781) 862-0500, Ext. 237.

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