

A public health message from The Marblehead Board of Health

SPRING ALERT

Does your child know
what this sign means?

CAUTION
PESTICIDE APPLICATION



Do you know that children
are uniquely vulnerable to
pesticide exposure?

The Marblehead Board of Health urges
parents to teach their children to
recognize the yellow signs signaling that
pesticides have been applied to property
as a WARNING to keep off the grass.

Furthermore, to avoid unnecessary
exposure to these toxins, the Marblehead
Board of Health recommends that
homeowners adopt organic gardening and
landscaping techniques, and an
integrated pest management
(IPM) approach to all
pest-related problems.

Most young children are unaware of the meaning of these pesticide warning flags. And many parents are unaware that lawn chemicals can cause serious acute and long-term health problems, especially in children. Due to a variety of physiologic and age-related factors, children are uniquely vulnerable to the harmful effects of pesticides.

Pesticides by their very nature are designed to poison. These toxic chemicals can be inhaled, absorbed through the skin, brought into the house on shoes and toys, and inadvertently swallowed by putting unwashed hands into the mouth. Pesticides on the market today have never been tested with children's health concerns in mind.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "All pesticides are toxic to some degree. The commonplace, widespread use of pesticides is both a major environmental problem and a public health issue. And most pesticides – despite having an EPA registration – have not been adequately tested to determine their effects on people or the environment".¹

Choose not to use pesticides. Join the movement to protect our children's health.

If you would like additional information about pesticides, IPM and organic lawn and garden care, please contact the Marblehead Pesticide Awareness Committee (MPAC) at 639-8983 or the Marblehead Board of Health at 631-0212.

**A PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE SPONSORED BY THE
MARBLEHEAD BOARD OF HEALTH AND THE
MARBLEHEAD PESTICIDE AWARENESS COMMITTEE**

1. U.S. EPA, "Healthy Lawn, Healthy Environment", Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances, June 1992 and EPA, February 1993 "Lawn Care Pesticides White Paper", Appendix VI.p.0011.