

**TOWN OF MARBLEHEAD
Board of Health**

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STATEMENT ON PESTICIDES

Whereas pesticides are by nature poisons and exposure, even at low levels,
may cause serious adverse health effects; and

Whereas, due to a variety of physiologic and age-related factors, children are at increased risk of cancer,
neuro-behavioral impairment and other health problems as a result of their exposure to pesticides; and

Whereas, many of the ingredients in pesticide products, alone and in combination, are not tested for their
long-term toxic effects on the brain and nervous systems, the endocrine system, or the immune system;
nor have they been tested with the unique vulnerability of children in mind; and

Whereas, pesticides and other toxins can cross the placenta and directly affect the developing child,
even at low doses that might not harm adults; and

Whereas, in addition to their intended effects, pesticides can also harm non-target organisms
(such as humans, pets, beneficial insects, aquatic and other wildlife) and the environment; and

Whereas according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) all pesticides are toxic
to some degree..., and the commonplace, widespread use of pesticides is both a major environmental
problem and a public health issue;¹ and

Whereas, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) believes that most pesticides –
despite having an EPA registration – have not been adequately tested to determine their effects on people
or the environment;² and

Whereas, it is in the best interest of community health for all residents to learn about the hazards
of pesticides, and to adopt organic gardening and landscaping techniques as well as an integrated pest
management (IPM) approach to all pest-related problems:

NOW THEREFORE, The Board of Health of the Town of Marblehead hereby commits itself to the
goal of reduction and eventual phase-out of pesticide use in the Town of Marblehead,
both on public and private property.

1. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Healthy Lawn, Healthy Environment", Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances, June 1992.
2. U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, February, 1993, "Lawn Care Pesticides White Paper", Appendix VI p. lxxiii