

SPRING ALERT

Does your child know what this sign means?



Spring is now officially here, and our kids are outdoors playing on lawns. While this is a healthy activity for children, parents need to be aware that many lawns are treated with potentially harmful chemical pesticides. **Please make your children aware of the meaning of the yellow pesticide application warning flags** and tell them to stay off lawns where they are displayed.

The unique behavioral patterns of children as well as their developing physiology make them more vulnerable to these chemicals than adults, and studies have shown that even small exposures to pesticides at critical periods of development may cause acute or long term health problems, including asthma, neurological and endocrine problems and certain cancers.

Many commonly used lawn pesticides can remain on the grass long after the warning signs have been removed. Pesticides can be inhaled, absorbed through the skin, or inadvertently ingested when children put unwashed hands in their mouths. They can be tracked indoors on shoes, and remain active for months.

“As a pediatrician I urge all parents to reduce pesticide use as much as possible, especially lawn services. Children’s health is more important than a few weeds.”

Philip J. Landrigan, M.D.

Director of the Center for Children’s Health and the Environment
Mount Sinai School of Medicine.



To limit your family’s exposure, stop using lawn pesticides and keep children away from treated areas in parks, playgrounds or on neighbor’s lawns. Even commonly used consumer “weed and feed” products contain harmful pesticides. If a neighbor is spraying their yard, close your windows and bring moveable items inside, especially children’s toys and animal food dishes.

Today, homeowners have many more safe lawn care solutions available to them as natural lawn care is the fastest growing segment of the green industry.

For more information on lawn pesticides and a list of lawn services and retailers offering organic programs and products, please visit our web site

www.grassrootsinfo.org

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