

Safety & Environmental Considerations of Using Insecticides

Insecticides help protect crops, but they must be used responsibly to avoid risks to people, animals, and the environment. Proper handling ensures long-term soil health, clean water, and safer food.

Farmer Safety

- **Wear protective gear:** gloves, mask, goggles, and long sleeves to avoid skin contact or inhalation.
 - **Follow label instructions** carefully for dosage, timing, and mixing procedures.
 - **Avoid eating, drinking, or smoking** while spraying.
 - **Wash thoroughly** after handling, and clean all tools and spray equipment.
 - **Store safely:** in clearly labelled, sealed containers away from children, animals, and food supplies.
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Environmental Protection

- **Avoid overuse:** Excess spraying harms beneficial insects like bees and pollutes the soil.
- **Protect water bodies:** Don't spray near rivers, ponds, or irrigation canals to prevent runoff contamination.
- **Use targeted spraying** instead of broadcast spraying to reduce waste and drift.
- **Practice crop rotation and IPM** (Integrated Pest Management) to reduce reliance on chemicals.
- **Choose eco-friendly alternatives:** like neem oil, pheromone traps, and biological pesticides whenever possible.

Safe Disposal & Long-Term Considerations

- Never dump leftover insecticide into drains or fields.
 - Follow local guidelines for **safe disposal of empty containers and residues**.
 - Prefer **biodegradable and less toxic options** where possible.
 - Understand the **long-term effects** of persistent chemicals on soil and biodiversity.
 - Promote **Integrated Pest Management (IPM)** combining biological, cultural, and chemical methods.
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Warning Symbols to Know:

-  **Toxic:** Can cause harm through exposure.
-  **Flammable:** Keep away from open flames.

- ⚡ **Corrosive:** Can damage skin, eyes, and surfaces.
- 🐟 **Harmful to aquatic life:** Do not use near water bodies.

✅ **Smart use = Safe harvest.** Protect your health, your land, and your future by following proper insecticide practices.