

Maximum residue limits (MRLs) in Canada



Health Canada's scientists carefully review a wide variety of scientific data and information to set pesticide food safety standards to keep us healthy. Our scientists keep you safe by setting the maximum amount of pesticide residue that could be found on or in the food we eat. Pesticides help protect crops from weeds, fungi, insects and a changing climate.



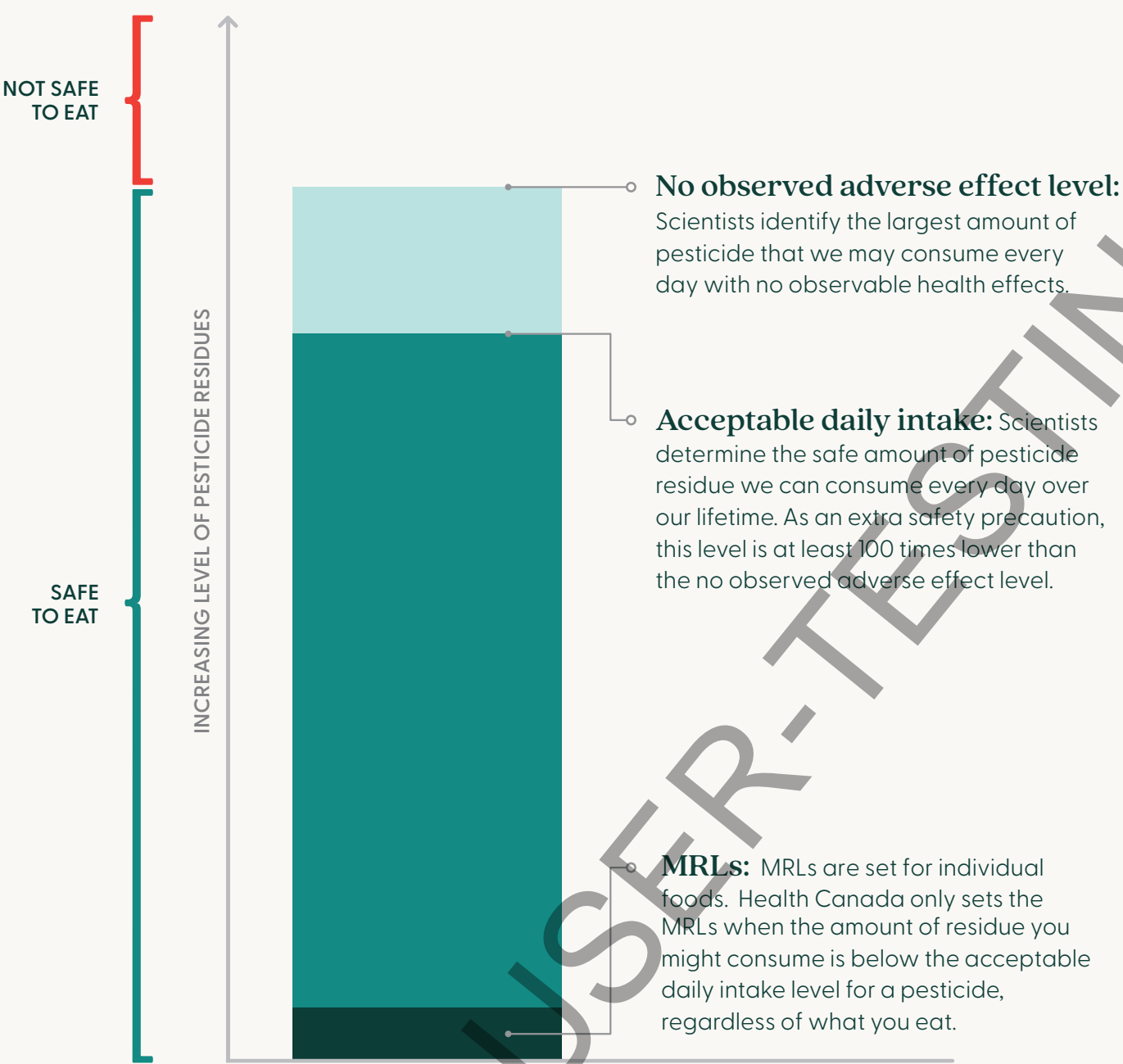
What is an MRL?

A maximum residue limit (MRL) is the maximum amount of pesticide residue that may remain on or in food when a pesticide is used properly. MRLs are legal and enforceable limits. Typically the actual amount of pesticide residue on your food will be lower than the MRL.



How are MRLs determined?

When determining a safe residue level for food, Health Canada's scientists consider information from many scientific studies before they set residue limits. Our scientists pay attention to the wide variety of foods that we eat every day and over our lifetime.



MRLs can change over time, but they must always protect our health. The residues consumed from all sources must be below the acceptable daily intake level.

An adult would have to eat almost one shopping cart of apples that contain the maximum amount of pesticide residues every day for their lifetime to consume enough pesticide for there to be a health concern.



257 apples for an adult man and 220 apples for an adult woman based on the highest registered MRL for apples.

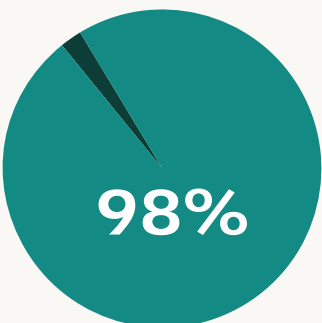
However, the realistic amount of pesticide residue on foods is much lower than the MRL, so in reality you would have to eat even more for this to be a concern!



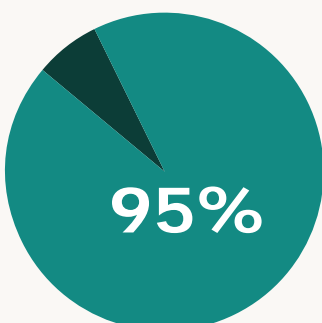
How do I know the food I'm eating is safe?

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has an ongoing program of testing foods to determine pesticide residue levels. Year after year, the results show the majority of fresh fruits and vegetables tested have no pesticide residue or have levels below the set MRLs.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND GRAINS WITH PESTICIDE RESIDUE LEVELS BELOW SET MRLs



FOOD GROWN IN CANADA



FOOD GROWN OUTSIDE CANADA

Based on the 2018-2019 report for the National Chemical Residue Monitoring Program and Chemistry Food Safety oversight program.

Any food found with pesticide residue levels above the legal limit undergoes an investigation, and CFIA takes the appropriate action to keep us safe.

For more information visit Canada.ca/MRLs