



# PESTICIDE DETECTIVES

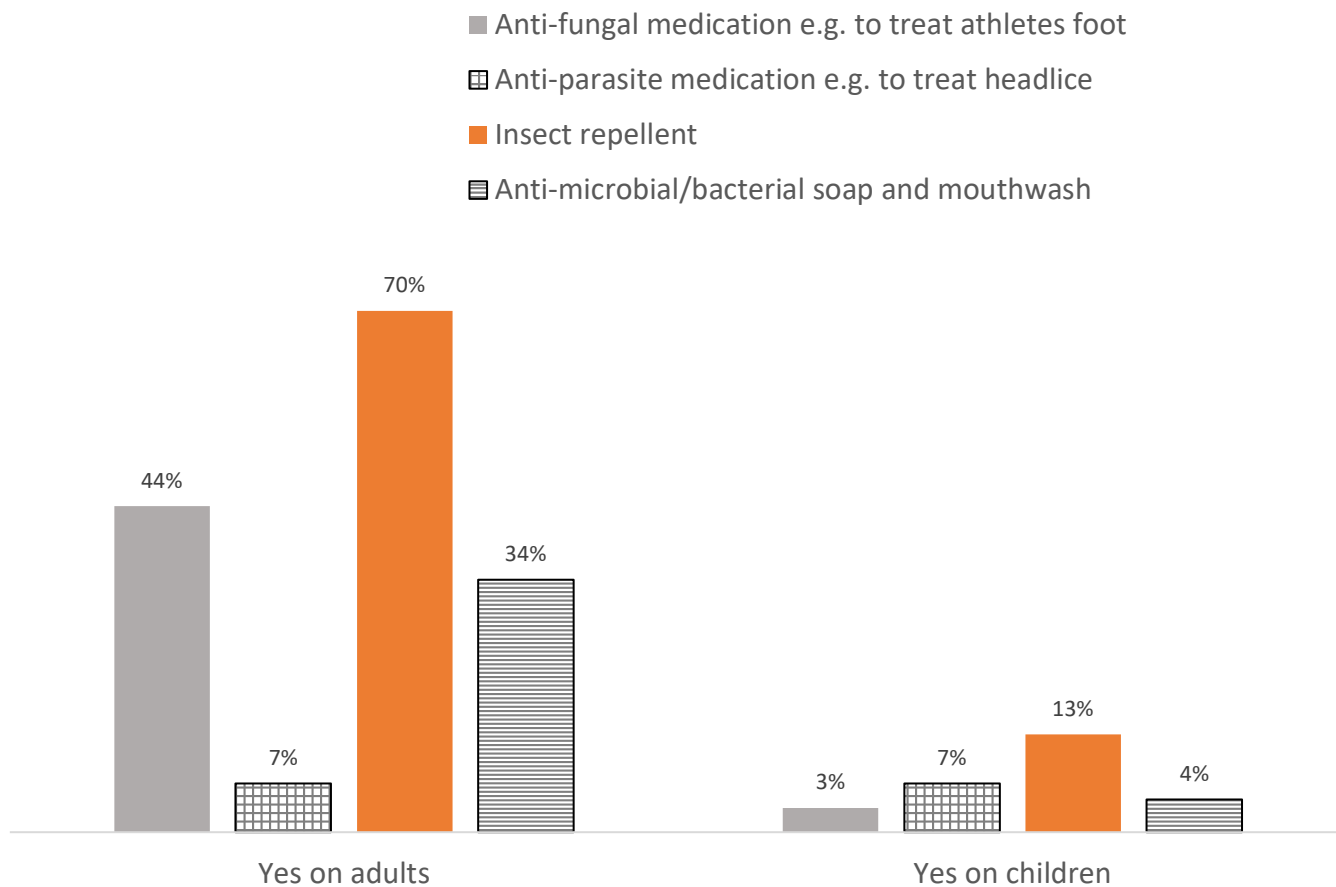
A national assessment of pesticides in waterways

Pesticide Use in Australian Homes and Gardens Survey Results 2020  
[www.pesticidedetectives.com.au](http://www.pesticidedetectives.com.au)

## 3. Products applied on humans

**Insect repellent** is the most common product applied with **70%** of respondents reporting the use of insect repellent products on themselves and on their children.

No. of respondents: 91





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**Insect repellent products** were used by **70%** of respondents and **13%** of their children over a 12-month period.

[Off! Tropical Strength Insect Repellent](#) was mostly commonly used and most frequently applied between 2 to 11 applications over a 12-month period. Other products used include: [Repel tropical strength personal insect spray](#), [Aeroguard tropical strength insect repellent \(aerosol\)](#), [Jason 'Quit Bugging Me' insect repellent](#), [Bushman Plus 20% Deet.](#), [Off! Family Care Insect Repellent](#), [Repellex Tropical Strength Personal Insect Repellent Spray](#), and [Vanilla Mozi](#).

Types of products and frequency of use selected by respondents include:

Insect Repellent	1 application	2-11 applications	12 or more applications
<a href="#">Off! Tropical Strength Insect Repellent</a>	6	19	3
<a href="#">Aeroguard Tropical Strength Roll on</a>	4	14	1
<a href="#">Bushman Insect Repellent 80% Deet Heavy Duty</a>	6	10	4
<a href="#">Rid Insect Repellent Tropical Strength Plus Antiseptic Spray</a>	0	13	3
<a href="#">Cancer Council Repel Sunscreen Plus Insect Repellent Lotion</a>	1	2	0
Other products	6	14	6

**Anti-fungal products** were used by **44%** of respondents and **3%** of their children. [Canesten Cream](#) was mostly commonly used and most frequently applied between 2 to 11 applications over a 12-month period. Other products used include [ketoconazole oral medication](#) (prescription), [SolvEasy Tinea spray](#), [Nizoral 1%](#), [Resolve Tinea Cream](#), [Hydrozol Cream](#), [Coaltar Shampoo](#), [Daktarin](#), [Daktagold Cream](#), [Excilor](#), [Kenacomb Ointment](#), [Clonea Clotrimazole Cream](#), and [Terbinafine](#).

Types of products and frequency of use selected by respondents include:

Anti-fungal medication/products to treat athletes foot, fungal nail infection, and thrush	1 application	2-11 applications	12 or more applications
<a href="#">Canesten Cream</a>	7	16	1
<a href="#">Lamisil Cream</a>	2	6	0
<a href="#">Head &amp; Shoulders Selenium Sulfide Persistent Dandruff Shampoo</a>	1	1	3
<a href="#">Canesten Clotrimazole Thrush Treatment</a>	1	1	0
<a href="#">Nilstat Oral Drops</a>	0	2	0
Other Products	2	0	1



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**Anti-parasite products** were used by **7%** of respondents and **7%** of their children over a 12-month period. Other products used include [NYDA](#) and [Vermox](#).

Types of products and frequency of use selected by respondents include:

Anti-parasite medication/products e.g. to treat headlice, scabies	1 application	2-11 applications	12 or more applications
<a href="#">Pyrenel Foam</a>	1	1	0
<a href="#">Benzemul Application for the Treatment Of Scabies &amp; Body Lice</a>	0	0	1
<a href="#">Lyclear Scabies Cream</a>	1	0	1
Other products	2	3	2

**Anti-microbial soap and mouthwash products** were used by **34%** of respondents and **4%** of their children over a 12-month period. Other products used include: [pHisohex](#), [Ti tree oil](#), [Listerine](#), [Colgate "Plax"](#), [Coles](#) and Aldi antibacterial hand wash, [J&J microshield](#) [Palmolive antibacterial liquid hand wash](#), [Dettol hand wash](#), Pears coal tar soap, and [Betadine](#).

Types of products and frequency of use selected by respondents include:

Anti-microbial/bacterial soup/mouthwash	1 application	2-11 applications	12 or more applications
<a href="#">Biotène Dry Mouth Oral Rinse</a>	1	2	0
<a href="#">Dettol Sapoderm Hygienic Soap</a>	1	4	1
Other Products	4	5	9

## OTHER TYPES OF PRODUCTS APPLIED ON HUMANS

**7%** of respondents reported using other types of products on themselves. These include: [Tea tree oil](#), [Near Feet Foot Spray](#) and [Isocol antiseptic solution](#).



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## Awareness of pesticides in products applied on humans

**60%** of respondents were aware that the products applied on themselves or their children contained pesticides prior to completing the survey. Of those that were not aware:

1 type of product Insect repellent	<b>3%</b> of respondents did not know that insect repellent contained pesticides prior to completing the survey.
1 type of product Anti-fungal products	<b>21%</b> of respondents did not know that anti-fungal products contained pesticides prior to completing the survey.
2 types of products Anti-fungal and anti-parasitic products	<b>7%</b> of respondents did not know that anti-fungal and anti-parasitic products contained pesticides prior to completing the survey.
2 types of products Anti-fungal and insect repellent	<b>2%</b> of respondents did not know that anti-fungal and anti-parasitic products contained pesticides prior to completing the survey.
3 types of products Anti-fungal, anti-parasitic and insect repellent	<b>7%</b> of respondents did not know that anti-fungal, anti-parasitic and insect repellent products contained pesticides prior to completing the survey.

No. of respondents: 91



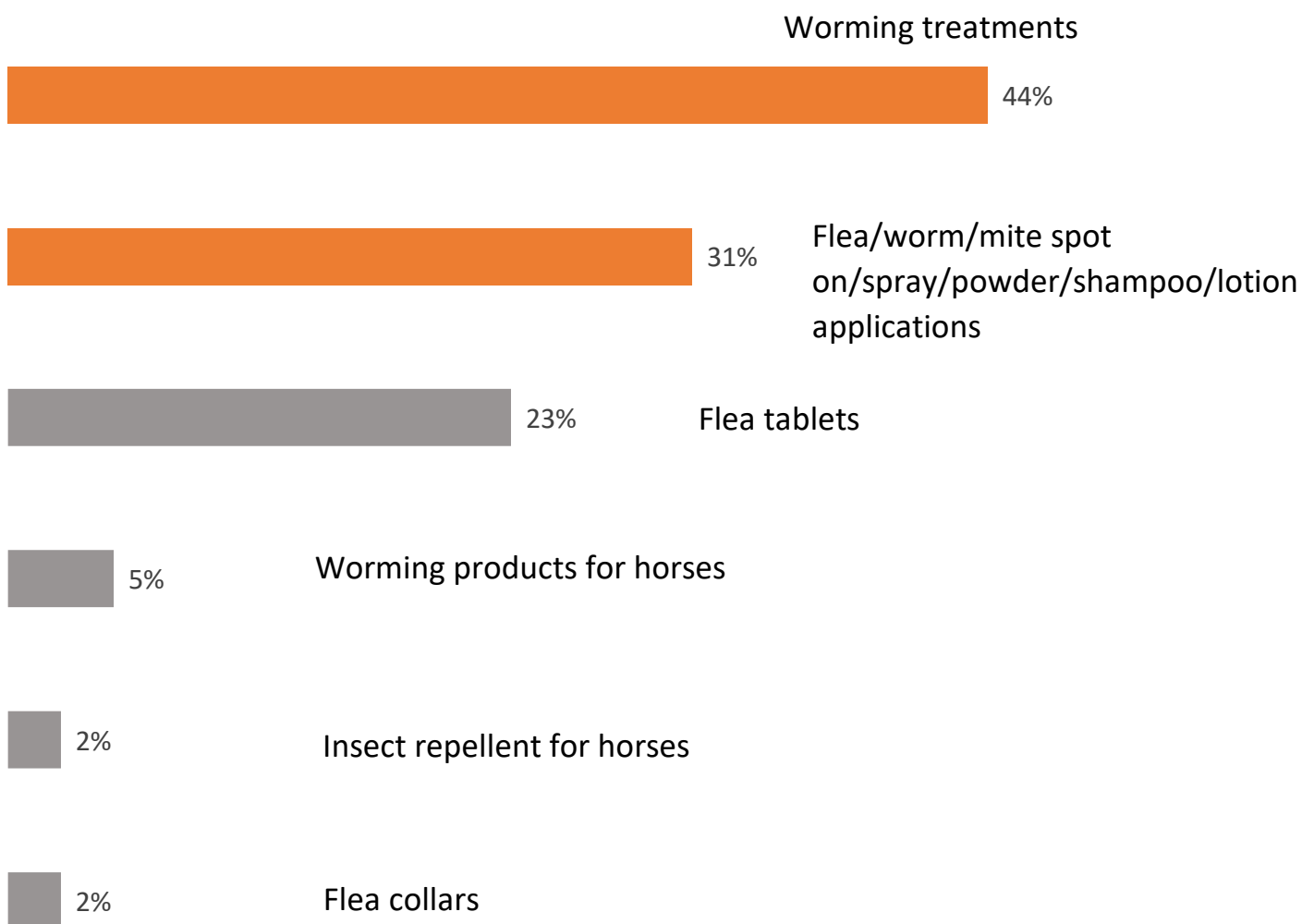
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## 4. Products applied on animals and pets

**Worming** treatments are the most common products applied by **44%** of respondents on animals they own or their pets over a 12-month period.





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[Drontal Allwormer chewable](#) was used most frequently, from 2 to 11 applications and most commonly on their pets and animals.

Types of products and frequency of use selected by respondents include:

Worming treatments	1 application	2-11 applications	12 or more applications
<a href="#">Drontal Allwormer chewable</a>	2	10	1
<a href="#">Sentinel Spectrum tasty chews</a>	0	4	3
<a href="#">Profender Allwormer</a>	3	2	1
Other products	4	10	2

A range of flea/tick/mite spot on solution/spray/shampoo applications were used on pets and animals.

Types of products and frequency of use selected by respondents include:

Flea/tick/worm/mite products	1 application	2-11 applications	12 or more applications
<a href="#">Advocate spot on</a>	2	8	1
<a href="#">Advantix spot on</a>	3	5	0
<a href="#">Revolution</a>	0	3	0
<a href="#">FIDOS Flea shampoo</a>	0	1	0
Other products	10	4	1

\*One respondent applied [Kiltix tick collar](#) once in the last 12 months and another respondent applied [Virbac Preventic Tick Collar](#) 2 to 11 times in the last 12 months.



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A range of flea tablets were used on pets and animals. Of these, Bravecto Chewable tablets were most common.

Types of products and frequency of use selected by respondents include:

Flea tablets	1 application	2-11 applications	12 or more applications
<a href="#">CAPSTAR Tablets</a>	3	0	0
<a href="#">Bravecto Chewable tablets</a>	1	4	0
<a href="#">COMFORTIS chewable tablets for fleas</a>	1	3	0
Other products	3	3	1

Other products used by respondents include, "Ich" treatment for fish containing "[Malachite Green](#)", [Surolan](#) (anti-fungal treatment), Horse worming paste, [Kilverm poultry wormer](#), [Pestene lice and mite powder](#), chillies, [Malaseb shampoo](#), Moxydectin worming product, [Nexgard Spectra](#) (fleas, ticks, mites, worms).

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## PROFESSIONAL APPLICATION OF PRODUCTS ON ANIMALS AND PETS

No. of respondents : 91

**11%** of respondents reporting that a professional applied pesticide products on their pets and/or animals. One respondent was unsure.



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## Attitudes and behaviours towards pesticides

### Where do respondents buy their products from?

Majority of respondents purchased their indoor/outdoor and products for human use from supermarkets, chemists and general stores.

**40%** of respondents purchased products for their animals and pets from specialist stores. One respondent listed that herbicides were borrowed from the workplace.

**A: Supermarkets/chemists/general stores (E.g. Bunnings, Safeway, Chemist Warehouse)**

**B: Specialist stores (E.g. garden centre, pet store, vet hospital)**

**C: Internet and "other"**

**D: Internet**

**E: Do not use these products**

**F: Supermarkets/chemists/general stores (E.g. Bunnings, Safeway, Chemist Warehouse), Specialist stores (E.g. garden centre, pet store, vet hospital), and "other".**

No of respondents: 91

	<b>A</b>	<b>A and B</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>A and D</b>	<b>B and D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>Products for indoor use</b>	76%	2%	0	0	0	2%	0%	18%	4%
<b>Products for outdoor use</b>	53%	7%	19%	1%	1%	0%	0%	19%	0%
<b>Products for use on humans</b>	78%	3%	3%	0	2%	2%	0%	10%	10%
<b>Products for use on animals</b>	9%	4%	40%	0	8%	0%	4%	35%	0%





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## Where do respondents store their products?

**Products for indoor use** - Majority of respondents stored their **on high shelves, in cupboards, kitchens and, utility rooms.**

**Products for outdoor use** - Majority of respondents stored their products **on high shelves, in cupboards, and garden sheds and garages.**

**Products for use on humans** - Majority of respondents stored their products **on high shelves, in cupboards, and in bathrooms.**

**Products for use on animals** - Majority of respondents stored their products **on high shelves, in cupboards, and in kitchens.**

Other places where products were stored include **in the laundry room, hallway cupboard, locked shipping container and on the window ledge in the laundry.**

**A: High shelf/cupboard**  
**B: Kitchen**  
**C: Utility**  
**D: Bathroom**  
**E: Garden shed**

**F: Garage**  
**G: Locked cupboard/container**  
**H: Kitchen/bathroom**  
**I: Other**  
**J: Do not use these products**

No of respondents: 91

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	J	B and D
<b>Products for indoor use</b>	32%	24%	7%	2%	2%	1%	2%	13%	1%
<b>Products for outdoor use</b>	13%	2%	3%	0%	32%	21%	3%	15%	0%
<b>Products for use on humans</b>	26%	8%	4%	44%	1%	0%	2%	9%	0%
<b>Products for use on animals</b>	21%	14%	9%	2%	1%	3%	4%	35%	0%

	B, C, I	A and D	A and I	A and C	C and D	A and F	A and D	B, C and D	B,C,D and F	G, A and B	Various other combinations
<b>Indoor Products</b>	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	4%
<b>Outdoor Products</b>	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%
<b>Products for humans</b>	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%
<b>Products for animals</b>	0%	1%	0%	2%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%



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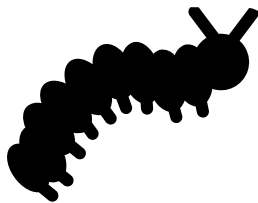
Percentage of respondents who store products that have not been used in the past year.



Products for Indoor Use



37%



Products for Outdoor Use



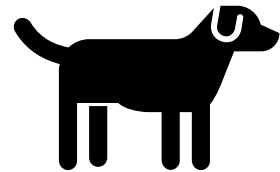
49%



Products for Use on Humans



36%



Products for Use on Animals



20%

of respondents store their products



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## 3. Where do respondents dispose of their excess products?

Majority of respondents disposed of their excess products with their domestic rubbish. **52%** of respondents disposed of their excess products **for use on humans** with their **domestic rubbish**. Up to **22%** of respondents **stored their excess products** and **21%** of respondents disposed of their products for outdoor use **through their local council**. A small number of respondents disposed of their products down the drain.

Respondents who selected other means used all of their products. Some respondents did not know where to dispose small quantities of excess products and stockpiled them in their garages. Excess products for use on animals were returned to pharmacies, stores or/and vets. Some respondents returned their excess products to their local chemists. Some disposed of their products at the EPA chemical collection centre while others kept them without disposal.

**A: Domestic Rubbish**

**B: Drain**

**C: Local Council**

**D: Stored Excess**

**E: Other**

**F: Do not use these products**

No. of respondents: 91

	A	B	C	D	E	A and B	A and C	F	Various other combinations
<b>Products for indoor use</b>	<b>36%</b>	2%	18%	19%	12%	1%	1%	9%	2%
<b>Products for outdoor use</b>	<b>29%</b>	1%	21%	22%	13%	0%	0%	12%	2%
<b>Products for use on humans</b>	<b>52%</b>	2%	4%	19%	14%	1%	1%	7%	0%
<b>Products for use on animals</b>	<b>30%</b>	1%	8%	16%	12%	0%	0%	32%	1%



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## 4. When applying indoor products:



**56%** of respondents read instructions, **69%** follow instructions, **67%** wash hands after application, **69%** cover unprotected food and drinks, **65%** ventilate the area, **41%** never use gloves or masks or other personal protective equipment, **70%** keep children away during application and **65%** keep pets away during application.

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Never	Total No. of respondents
<b>Read instructions</b>	<b>56%</b>	22%	20%	2%	<b>81</b>
<b>Follow instructions</b>	<b>69%</b>	21%	10%	0%	<b>81</b>
<b>Wash hands after application</b>	<b>67%</b>	17%	16%	0%	<b>81</b>
<b>Cover unprotected food and drinks</b>	<b>69%</b>	11%	16%	4%	<b>80</b>
<b>Ventilate the area</b>	<b>65%</b>	15%	15%	5%	<b>80</b>
<b>Use gloves or mask or other personal protective equipment</b>	15%	16%	28%	<b>41%</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Keep children away during application</b>	<b>70%</b>	5%	6%	19%	<b>77</b>
<b>Keep pets away during application</b>	<b>65%</b>	13%	10%	12%	<b>78</b>



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## 5. When applying outdoor products:



**83%** of respondents read instructions, **84%** follow instructions, **86%** wash hands after application, **46%** use gloves or masks or other personal protective equipment, **80%** keep children away during application and **81%** keep pets away during application.

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Never	Total no. of respondents
Read instructions	83%	12%	4%	1%	78
Follow instructions	84%	15%	0%	1%	76
Wash hands after application	86%	12%	2%	0%	78
Use gloves or mask or other personal protective equipment	46%	29%	19%	6%	78
Keep children away during application	80%	3%	0%	17%	70
Keep pets away during application	81%	8%	3%	8%	73

## 6. When applying products to animals:



**82%** of respondents read instructions, **85%** follow instructions, **84%** wash hands after application, **52%** never use gloves or masks or other personal protective equipment, **54%** keep children away during application and **44%** keep treated pets off beds.

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Never	Total no. of respondents
Read instructions	82%	12%	3%	3%	62
Follow instructions	85%	12%	0%	3%	62
Wash hands after application	84%	10%	3%	3%	63
Use gloves or mask or other personal protective equipment	23%	10%	15%	52%	61
Keep children away during application	54%	9%	7%	30%	57
Keep treated pets off beds	44%	12%	8%	36%	61

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## 7. When reading pesticide labels:



**93% of respondents** always follow the label when the product is unfamiliar, **69%** always follow the label exactly, only **64%** understand all of the contents of the label, and only **32%** feel that the label always provides all the information that is needed.

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Never	Total no. of respondents
Follow the label when the product is unfamiliar	93%	4%	3%	0%	85
Follow the label exactly	69%	26%	5%	0%	85
Understand all of the label	64%	29%	7%	0%	86
The label provides all the information I need	32%	45%	23%	0%	84

## 8. General attitude to treating pest problems:



**43% of respondents** prefer to use non-chemical methods first before applying products. **44%** apply product for outdoor use and **42%** apply products on themselves when the problem becomes unmanageable and **31%** use products on animals and pets preventatively before the problem occurs.

	Products for indoor use	Products for outdoor use	Products for use on humans	Products for use on animals
Use at the first sign of a problem	8%	8%	13%	12%
Use non-chemical methods first	43%	32%	33%	21%
Use preventatively before problem occurs	3%	5%	8%	31%
Use when problem becomes unmanageable	36%	44%	42%	22%
Would never use pesticides	10%	11%	4%	14%
<b>Total no. of respondents</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>91</b>



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**38% of respondents** disagreed that pesticides that are available for use by the public are more dangerous than other household/gardening chemicals. **45% of respondents** agreed that exposure is to be expected if you use pesticides in the home or garden. **34% and 14%** of respondents **strongly agreed and agreed respectively** that when using pesticides, a number of accidents have occurred. **51%** **strongly disagreed** that pesticides that can harm human health are not available for use by the public. **64%** **strongly disagree** that pesticides available for use to the public are safe to use, even if the guidelines are not adhered to.

	Agree	Strongly Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Total no. of respondents
Pesticides available for use by the public are more dangerous than other household/gardening chemicals	34%	18%	38%	4%	6%	91
Exposure is to be expected (e.g. skin contact) if you use pesticides in the home or garden	45%	15%	33%	7%	0%	91
When using pesticides, I have experienced a number of accidents (e.g. spillage)	14%	4%	46%	34%	2%	91
Pesticides that can harm human health are not available for use by the public	4%	5%	37%	51%	3%	91
Pesticides available for use to the public are safe to use, even if the guidelines are not adhered to	2%	2%	32%	64%	0%	91