Why You Should Protect Yourself

The use of pesticides has become quite commonplace, from its use on farms, in public spaces as well as in our households.

Farmers and farm workers can be exposed to pesticides in agriculture through the treatment of crops, plants and grain stores. Residents living in close proximity to farms can also be exposed to pesticide drift. In urban areas, there may be potential exposure to pesticides through the spraying of amenities, such as parks, pavements and playgrounds. Many people also purchase pesticides off the shelf for home and garden use.

The numerous negative health effects that have been associated with chemical pesticides include dermatological, gastrointestinal, neurological, carcinogenic, respiratory, reproductive, and endocrine effects. As with the other POPs, there is evidence of the bioaccumulation of pesticides in fats of fish, meat, poultry and dairy. Residues have also been detected in human breast milk samples, causing concerns about prenatal exposure and health effects in children.

While most of the POPs Pesticides are no longer used or allowed in the Caribbean, there are still concerns that older pesticide stockpiles may have found their way into the waste management systems without proper strategies for their collection, storage and environmentally sound disposal.

Together we can be

POPs Pesticides-FREE

Contact the following near you for support on combatting these pollutants.

Environmental Management Authority

Waste Management Agency

Ministry of Agriculture

Pesticides Board

STOP THE POPs!

Identify, Learn & Act!

Learn More Today! **stopthepops.com**

BCRC CARIBBEAN
Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

gef GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

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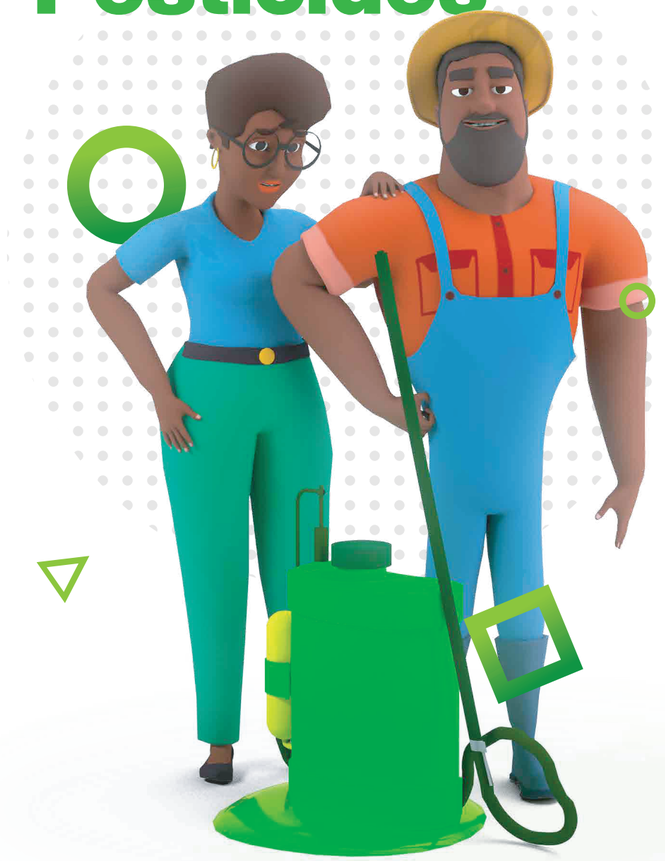
Safeguard yourself from

POPs Pesticides



Whether you are on a farm spraying your crops or at the grocery store shopping for produce, you may be in contact with Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) including Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and not even know it.

Look out for the following POPs Pesticides

Aldrin
Aldrin is a pesticide used to control soil insects and grasshoppers. It has been widely used to protect wooden structures from termites.

Beta Hexachlorocyclohexane (Beta-HCH)
Beta-HCH is used as an insecticide or as an intermediate chemical in the manufacturing of lindane.

DDT
DDT was widely used during World War II for protection from malaria, typhus and other diseases spread by insects. DDT continues to be used for malaria control in several countries.

Chlordecone
Chlordecone was used as an insecticide on tobacco, ornamental shrubs, bananas, citrus trees, and in ant and roach traps.

Heptachlor
Heptachlor is used primarily against soil insects and termites. It has also been used against cotton insects, grasshoppers, some crop pests and to combat malaria.

Toxaphene
Toxaphene was used primarily on cotton, cereal grains fruits, nuts, and vegetables. It has also been used to control ticks and mites in livestock.

Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)
HCB is a fungicide that is used to treat seeds and wheat. It causes skin lesions, colic, weakness and affects metabolism.

Pentachlorobenzene (PeCB)
PeCB is a used as a fungicide.

Alpha Hexachlorocyclohexane (Alpha-HCH)
Alpha-HCH is used as an insecticide or as an intermediate chemical in the manufacturing of lindane.

Chlordane
Chlordane has been used on agricultural crops and extensively in the control of termites.

Dieldrin
Used principally to control termites and textile pests, dieldrin has also been used to control insect-borne diseases and insects living in agricultural soils.

Endrin
Endrin is a foliar insecticide used mainly on field crops such as cotton and grains. It has also been used as a rodenticide to control mice and moles.

Lindane
Lindane was used as an insecticide on fruit and vegetable crops, for seed treatment and in forestry.

Mirex
Mirex is a stomach insecticide with little contact activity. Its main use was against fire ants and mealybug and has been investigated for possible use against yellow jacket wasps.

Endosulfan
Endosulfan is a pesticide that is mainly used on food crops.

Pentachlorophenol (PCP)
PCP has been used as an herbicide, insecticide, fungicide, algaecide and disinfectant. Some applications were in wood preservation (utility poles).

STOP THE POPs!

Identify, Learn & Act!

The truth is, danger lurks where you least expect it.

Understanding the dangers of POPs Pesticides

Identify
The sources and uses of POPs/UPOPs

Learn
How you and your family are exposed and affected

Act
By minimising your exposure

www.stopthepops.com

How To Reduce Exposure

Common Exposure Pathways

Inappropriate Use and Storage of Pesticides
Improper storage, use and removal of unwanted pesticide containers can be a potential point of contamination.

Agricultural Use
Farmers, farm workers, and housekeepers can be exposed to pesticides in agriculture through the treatment of crops, plants, and grain stores.

Contaminated Food Sources
Consumption of livestock reared on potentially contaminated sites can lead to the indirect consumption of contaminants due to bioaccumulation in animals from grazing.

Contaminated Crops and Produce
Eating the same type of potentially contaminated food (treated continuously with the same pesticide) can increase susceptibility to associated health implications.

Unwashed Foods
When not thoroughly rinsed or cleaned, pesticide residues left on farmed crops can be ingested, putting our health at risk.

Disposal of Used Pesticide Containers
Improper disposal of used pesticide containers may contribute to the levels of POPs in the environment and can complicate health conditions.

Follow these tips to protect yourself

- Follow instructions on labels including dosage, storage, disposal, etc.
- Reduce usage of Highly Hazardous Pesticides or include safer alternatives like Integrated Pest Management.
- Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to avoid inhalation or contact with Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs).
- Trim fat and skin from meat, poultry, and fish to minimise exposure to pesticide residue that may accumulate in animal fat.
- Eat a variety of fruits and vegetables to minimise the potential of increased exposure to a single pesticide.
- Thoroughly wash all produce, even those labelled organic and peel fruits and vegetables when possible.
- Dispose of your empty pesticide containers properly (triple rinse and puncture).