

PMEP Pesticide Education Fact Sheet: **What is a Pesticide?**

What is a Pesticide?

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| Pesticide: Any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest . | |
| Intention: +claims to prevent, kill, destroy, or mitigate pests +pictures of pests on the label | Pest: any living thing that has an undesirable impact on something that is important to us |

For example, here is part of the Entrust® label:



Note that it is what a chemical does, not where it comes from (e.g., natural or man-made) or where it is used (e.g., organic vs conventional farming) that determines whether it is a pesticide.

| Types of Pesticides | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Type | Herbicide | Insecticide | Fungicide | Disinfectants | Growth Regulators |
| target pest | weeds | insects | fungi, mold, | household | insects, weeds |
| examples | crabgrass killer | mosquito repellent, ant bait, moth balls | mildew flower disease spray | germs bathroom sanitizer | hormones that prevent insect molting |
| Type | Rodenticide | Acaricide | Wood Preservatives | Antifouling Paint | |
| target pest | rats and mice | mites and ticks | wood-destroying insects and fungi | algae and mollusks that attach to underwater surfaces | |
| example | rodent baits | dog and cat tick collars | borates | boat bottom paint | |

What is NOT a pesticide?

- Products intended to control *internal* parasites, like antibiotics
- Products that are not intended for pest control, like household cleaning products that do not claim to disinfect
- Products that are intended for pest control but are not substances, such as mechanical devices (like mouse traps) or physical barriers (like mulch for weed suppression)