

PMEP Pesticide Education Fact Sheet: **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:



Intent and pest

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	Sanitizers
target pest	weeds	insects	fungi, mold, mildew	fungi, viruses, bacteria	microorganisms
<i>examples</i>	crabgrass killer	mosquito repellent, ant bait, moth balls	flower disease spray	disinfecting surface wipes	sanitizing toilet bowl cleaner
Type	Rodenticide	Acaricide	Wood Preservatives	Growth Regulators	Antifouling Paint
target pest	rats and mice	mites and ticks	wood-destroying insects and fungi	insects, weeds	algae and mollusks that attach to underwater surfaces
<i>example</i>	rodent baits	dog and cat tick collars	borates	hormones that prevent insect molting	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)

Always read and follow the label when applying a pesticide. The label is the law.