

ALERT: ILLEGAL USE OF DDVP IN APARTMENT BUILDINGS

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BUILDING SUPERINTENDENTS AND PROPERTY MANAGERS

Background

Pesticides are poisons that are used to control pests. Residents may not be aware that to be legally sold or distributed in the United States, most pesticides must be registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Instructions for their proper use must also be included on the label.



When people are bothered by pests bed bugs, cockroaches and rodents – they sometimes use products they receive from neighbors or friends who have brought them into the United States from other countries. Illegal, unregistered pesticides, like those pictured, can be very dangerous.

Products such as those pictured that say “SNIPER” or “NOPEST” on the label contain dichlorvos, also known as DDVP. These products are being brought into the country and illegally sold or distributed for use against insects and other pests. EPA has restricted the use of products containing DDVP and other organophosphates because of the dangers they present to human health.

Important:

DDVP products in containers like those pictured are not registered with EPA and selling or distributing them is against the law.

Always look for an EPA registration number on the label of any pesticide product you buy or use, and always buy pesticides at a reputable store.

What to Do in Case of Exposure

If you see someone overcome by DDVP fumes, move that person to fresh air or open a window and call 911. Administer mouth-to-mouth resuscitation if the person has stopped breathing, and CPR if the heart has stopped (chest compression alone is acceptable). If clothing or skin has come in direct contact with DDVP, remove affected clothing and rinse skin with plenty of water for 15-20 minutes.

Health Risks from Illegal Use of DDVP in Apartments

These illegal, unregistered pesticides can be dangerous to you, your family and your neighbors. Anyone exposed to DDVP could experience heavy sweating, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea,

drowsiness, extreme tiredness, or headache. Exposure to large amounts can even cause convulsions and coma. Children, especially, can get sick from DDVP and other illegal pesticides. These unregistered products should not be used for any reason and **should be disposed in a safe manner** in accordance with state and local requirements.

Proper DDVP Handling, Storage, Cleanup and Disposal

If you work in a housing complex and tenants have brought you bottles of Sniper or Nopest for disposal – or if you are for any reason exposed to DDVP – wearing this personal protective equipment will help keep you safe while handling it:

- Protective eye wear (goggles or face shield);
- Long-sleeved shirts, long pants, shoes and socks;
- Chemical-resistant gloves and headgear; and
- A NIOSH-approved respirator with either:
 - An organic vapor-removing cartridge with a pre filter approved for pesticides,
 - A canister approved for pesticides, or
 - An organic vapor-removing cartridge with a pre filter.

If full PPE is not available, wear at least a face mask, gloves and clothing that covers you as much as possible. Treat these products as dangerous even if there is no sign of

leakage. Wrap in heavy plastic and put into another bag with dirt, sand or kitty litter. You do not want children or other residents accidentally opening or coming in contact with the contents. If your community has a hazardous waste disposal event, store the bag out of the reach of children until it can be dropped off at the event. You should also contact your local waste management facility to find out where to dispose of this hazardous waste.

If a container is leaking, it is important to confine the leak as quickly and safely as possible. **Do not pour contents down the drain!** Using the personal protective equipment mentioned above (or a face mask and gloves at minimum), double-bag the bottle(s) in heavyweight plastic. If possible, add dirt, sand or kitty litter to absorb any leaking material. After you have wrapped up the leaky bottle(s), determine if anyone has been exposed and provide first aid or call 911. Contact your local waste management facility to find out where to dispose of this hazardous waste.

