



Types of Pesticide Ingredients

Pesticide active ingredients are described by the types of pests they control or how they work. People often use the term "pesticide" to refer only to insecticides, but it applies to all the substances used to control pests.

Well-known pesticides include:

- Insecticides,
- Herbicides,
- Rodenticides, and
- Fungicides.

Less well-known pesticides include:

- Disinfectants,
- Attractants,
- Plant defoliants,
- Swimming pool treatments, and
- Plant growth regulators.

The following list will help you understand the wide range of types of pesticides:

- Algicides kill algae in lakes, canals, swimming pools, water tanks, and other sites.
- Antifoulants kill or repel organisms that attach to underwater surfaces, such as barnacles that cling to boat bottoms.
- Antimicrobials kill microorganisms such as bacteria and viruses.

Attractants lure pests to a trap or bait, attracting an insect or rodent into a trap. (However, food is not considered a pesticide when used as an attractant.)

Bio-pesticides are derived from natural materials such as animals, plants, bacteria, and certain minerals.

- Biocides kill microorganisms.
- Defoliants cause leaves or foliage to drop from a plant, usually to facilitate harvest.
- Desiccants promote the drying of living tissues, such as unwanted plant tops.
- Disinfectants and sanitizers kill or inactivate disease-producing microorganisms on inanimate objects.
- Fungicides kill fungi (including blights, mildews, molds, and rust).
- Fumigants produce gas or vapor intended to destroy pests, for example, in buildings or soil.
- Herbicides kill weeds and other plants that grow where they are not wanted.
- Insect growth regulators disrupt the molting, maturing from pupal stage to adult, or other life processes of insects.
- Insecticides kill insects and other arthropods.
- Miticides (called acaricides) kill mites that feed on plants and animals.

- Microbial pesticides are microorganisms that kill, inhibit, or out-compete pests, including insects or other microorganism pests.
- Molluscicides kill snails and slugs.
- Nematicides kill nematodes (microscopic, worm-like organisms that feed on plant roots).
- Ovicides kill the eggs of insects and mites.
- Pheromones disrupt the mating behavior of insects.
- Plant growth regulators alter plants' expected growth, flowering, or reproduction rate (does not include fertilizers).
- Plant Incorporated Protectants are substances that plants produce from genetic material added to the plant.
- Repellents repel pests, including insects (such as mosquitoes) and birds.
- Rodenticides control mice and other rodents.

For more information, contact the Quechan Pesticide Control Office at 760-572-0771