



Green Paws: Your Pocket Guide to Safer Flea & Tick Treatments



THE EARTH'S BEST DEFENSE

Natural Resources Defense Council
www.nrdc.org

Make Safer Choices for You and Your Pet

Flea and tick treatments may contain toxic chemicals that can poison pets and harm people. Many products contain organophosphates and carbamates, two classes of chemicals that have been linked to nervous system disorders and other health problems in people. Even when applied as instructed on the box, these chemicals are not safe, either for pets or humans. To avoid the most toxic chemicals, choose flea- and tick-fighting products with ingredients from the green or yellow columns.



Chemicals to Avoid

Amitraz

Fenoxycarb

Permethrin



Veterinarians caution against using permethrin containing products if there are cats in the home.

Propoxur

**Tetrachlorvinphos
(TCVP)**



Chemicals to Use Sparingly Avoid If Pregnant or Around Young Children:



Fipronil

Imidacloprid

Metaflumizone

Pyrethrins



Pyrethrin is known to be very toxic to cats.

Selamectin



Safer Options When Chemical Control is Needed

Lufenuron

Nitenpyram





Pyriproxyfen

S-Methoprene

Spinosad




Please note that this pocket guide attempts to provide a reasonably simple, yet comprehensive, look at the insecticides most commonly found in pet flea and tick control products. It neither claims to be an exhaustive list of chemicals used in products nor should it be used as such. Pet owners should take care to examine the active ingredients in all flea and tick control products they buy, and consult with a veterinarian or doctor for medical-related questions.

Avoid Toxic Chemicals

-  Use a flea comb
-  Vacuum
-  Bath your pet and wash their bedding regularly
-  Maintain outdoor areas

Learn More

Visit www.greenpaws.org to:

-  Get a comprehensive list of brand name products with their chemical ingredients
-  Find more information about health risks from insecticides
-  Get the most toxic chemicals off the shelves



You can also post pictures of your four-legged friend!

Using herbal or natural products to treat fleas?

Not all essential oils used to treat pet pests are safe for pets or people. Herbal or natural products that contain **cedarwood, lemongrass, peppermint, rosemary** and **thyme** are likely safer. Use herbal or natural products containing **citrus, cinnamon, clove, d-limonene, geranium, tea tree, lavender, linalool, bay, eucalyptus,** and **rue oils** sparingly because they can cause allergic reactions in people—and severe reactions in cats and dogs have been reported. Avoid the use of any flea or tick product containing pennyroyal oil. It can cause seizures, comas, and even death in animals.



GreenPaws is an NRDC initiative to help get better federal protections for products used to treat pets for fleas and ticks. Join the fight by signing our petition and ordering an action kit at www.greenpaws.org now!

