

MOTHBALLS ARE A PESTICIDE

Paul Mitola

Environmental Consultant



What are mothballs?

- Mothballs have been used for many years in the U.S. as an insect and pest repellent for natural fibers, especially wool.
- Most of these products contain the active ingredients naphthalene or para-dichlorobenzene. Both active ingredients are effective because they vaporize at room temperature.

“The Label is the Law”

- The label on Mothball containers are designed to be followed to insure they are not causing any adverse effects on people animals or non target insects.
- Most Mothball labels require the application to air-tight or tightly closed containers that will prevent the pesticide fumes from accumulating in living spaces where people and pets can breathe them in for long periods of time. This can lead to long-term exposure, which may cause **health problems.**

Correct Applications

- For the control of Clothes Moths and Carpet beetles, their eggs and larva; applications should be applied to;
- Air-tight containers such as chest, trunks and garment bags.
- Do not use dry cleaning bags.

Mothball Exposure Health Effects

- Health effects from mothballs;
- Headaches, nausea, dizziness, respiratory irritation, blood effects and eye effects
- Dermal effects;
- Irritation and burning of the skin
- Possible allergic reactions with repeated exposures

Children at Risk

- Some populations of children appear to be more susceptible to developing anemia, jaundice and kidney damage following exposure to mothballs
- Some mothballs are colored like candy and thus are attractive to children which could result in accidental poisoning.

Common Misuses

More is not Better!

- Not using an air-tight container, allowing toxic fumes to escape to area where people or pets could be exposed to the fumes
- Using Mothballs outside
- Using Mothballs to control or repel animals, (wild or domestic) and or snakes
- Using Mothballs in gardens or other outdoor location to control insects

Outdoor Uses are **Not** Allowed

- Mothballs used outdoors can contaminate soil, plants and water.

Case File

- A Jacksonville homeowner applied hundreds of mothballs around her house to repel animals. She also put hundreds on her driveway then drove her car over them to release the gas quicker. Her neighbors asked her to stop putting so many mothballs out. She replied it's my property I'll do what I want to. So her neighbor contacted the news who tried to talk to her but she declined to be interviewed.

Case Files Continued

- FDACS has received many such complaints about the misuse of mothballs.
- Because mothballs are a pesticide FDACS has jurisdiction when a pesticide is being misused!
- FDACS has the authority to enter a property and investigate any misuse of any pesticide.

QUESTIONS?

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Paul.mitola@freshfromflorida.com