

## YOU CAN HAVE YOUR OWN SIGN

- Garden signs (8" diameter, aluminum enameled circle will not rust and last for years) Spanish or English  
(*\$15.00 each - shipping included*)
- Bumper Stickers (4 1/2" circle)  
(*\$1.00 each + 1<sup>st</sup> class stamp*)
- Children's stickers (2 3/4" circle)  
Spanish or English  
(*\$1.00/4 + 1<sup>st</sup> class stamp or \$75.00/1,000 + shipping*)
- "T" Shirts (organic, unbleached cotton)  
(*\$20.00 each + \$5.00 shipping*)  
(*Children: Ex small to Ex large*)  
(*Adult: small to ex large*)

Send you name, address and order along with Check or money order to:

**Pesticide Free Zone**  
**P.O. Box 824**  
**Kentfield, CA 94914**

Quantity pricing for community projects available. Check our web site:  
[www.pesticidefreezone.org](http://www.pesticidefreezone.org)

Donation are always appreciated and needed to continue to get the message out.

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**PROBLEM:** Toxins in our homes, from a variety of sources, can be extremely dangerous to our families' health.

**SOLUTION:**

- Be vigilant and educated
- Use organic, biodegradable, non-toxic cleaners
- Read labels on personal care products
- Check labels on paint, carpet cleaners, personal cleansing products, & home cleaning products for known toxins
- Consider an air purifying system
- Change vacuum cleaner bags frequently
- Educate your household to reduce risk and exposure to toxins
- Avoid poisonous combinations such as ammonia & chlorine when using cleaning products

**LABEL GUIDE:** What do the "signal words" mean on the label of a cleaning product or pesticide? The levels of toxicity indicated are set for adults not children. They only denote acute harm from ingestion, breathing fumes or contact with eyes or skin of the active ingredient. They do not address the affects of chronic exposure or what inert ingredients are present or their toxicity.

**DANGER! EPA Class I**  
**highly toxic**

(*less than a teaspoon can harm or kill an adult*)  
*corrosive (can burn the skin or eyes) or is flammable*

**WARNING! EPA Class II**  
**moderately toxic**

(*a teaspoon or an ounce can harm or kill an adult*)

**CAUTION! EPA Class III or IV**  
**slightly toxic**

(*more than an ounce can harm or produce a toxic effect in an adult*)

# What is a



## PERSONAL CHOICES

## A GUIDE TO REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Pesticide Free Zone  
Box 824  
Kentfield, CA 94914  
[www.pesticidefreezone.org](http://www.pesticidefreezone.org)  
888/590-3993 or 415/459-1391

## THE BEGINNING

In 1996 a group of concerned citizens were shocked to learn of the excessively high number of breast cancer cases in Marin. They began looking at areas of toxic exposures which could be reduced or eliminated. The use of pesticide immediately stood out as excessive and definitely not necessary.

**Marin Beyond Pesticide Coalition** was born out of the desire to make county government a show place on how to reduce pesticide use. Ultimately 48 different environmental organizations, community groups, homeowners associations and businesses came together and we asked:

- Immediately ban the use of EPA Toxicity Class I and II pesticides
- Require pre and post application signs
- Adopt an Integrated Pest Management Policy
- Establish an IPM Commission
- Ultimately eliminate the use of all pesticides, or use least toxic products

After protracted negotiations, the Marin County Integrated Pest Management Ordinance was passed by the Marin County Board of Supervisors and it took affect in January 1999.

Pesticide use reductions have taken place in county offices. Several other cities in Marin have also passed either resolutions or ordinances to reduce pesticide use, demonstrating that these toxic products no longer need to be used to control unwanted insect pests or weeds.

## THE WORK CONTINUES

The most egregious use of pesticides is in the private home. Because these toxic products can easily be purchased in hardware stores, nurseries or drug stores, people feel there is no danger. Another fallacy is the assumption that because the federal government allows them in commerce, pesticides must be safe. Both concepts are wrong; and because the private home occupant is not educated regarding the proper use and disposal of pesticides, toxic exposure is increased in the household and the environment.

The **Pesticide Free Zone** was created so individuals wanting to live in a clean environment could have a non-threatening way to convey their feelings. By displaying the cute ladybug sign on a gate, garden fence or in a window, dialogue could be initiated or thought stimulated.

The owner of a **Pesticide Free Zone** sign takes a pledge to use no toxic products in their zone; but if a need arises and only as a last resort, a product allowed under the organic standards is permissible. All PFZ sign owners live by the honor system because they understand the danger of exposure to pesticides.

**Pesticide Free Zone** signs can be found in many locations across the country. In Washington state nearly 10,000 signs are displayed in lawns of people promising not to use toxic chemicals. In New Jersey 20 towns, one school district and two counties have Pesticide Free Parks. Marin County California has nearly a dozen PFZ parks.

## THE PLEDGE

To the best of my ability I pledge to keep my home  and yard  and business  free of pesticides (this includes fungicides, herbicides, insecticides and other petrochemical agents that can cause cancer, reproductive harm, genetic damage, endocrine disruption and/or breathing difficulties). Whenever pest control is needed, I will consult with my local organic nursery or call a knowledgeable agent (such as a Pest Control Advisor certified by EcoWise or information found at [www.panna.org/resources/advisor](http://www.panna.org/resources/advisor)). I will further attempt to educate others regarding the reason for using organic pest control methods.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I want to get involved in:

- School pesticide use issues
- Urban spray issues
- Agricultural spray issues
- Write letters
- Fundraise
- Connect with a group