

# Glyphosate

Glyphosate is a weed killer, or herbicide. It is the most extensively used pesticide in the world today for both residential and agricultural purposes.

## HOW ARE WE EXPOSED TO GLYPHOSATE?

Glyphosate is often applied to lawns and gardens, and can contaminate plants, soil, air, and food. Glyphosate can be inhaled or ingested.

Glyphosate used on lawns and in parks can be tracked into homes on shoes or strollers that have had contact with glyphosate-treated surfaces. Residues of glyphosate are detected on some produce as well as in processed foods.

## WHAT ARE THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF GLYPHOSATE?

Children and fetuses are most vulnerable to pesticide exposures due to their developing organ systems and differences in the way they metabolize toxins. In addition, developmentally normal hand-to-mouth behavior, close proximity to the ground where pesticides settle, and high respiratory rates result in higher exposures in children compared with adults.

- **Cancer:** Glyphosate is classified by the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as probably carcinogenic to humans based on strong evidence that it causes cancer in laboratory animals and some evidence that it increases cancer risk in humans.
- **Hormone Disruption:** Studies have shown that glyphosate is an Endocrine Disrupting Chemical (EDC), meaning that it interferes with hormones in the body. EDCs can interfere with the development of the brain as well as the function of organ systems, such as the nervous and reproductive systems.
- **Birth Defects:** Elevated rates of birth defects have been observed in animals fed with glyphosate-treated crops and in farming communities in areas where large quantities of glyphosate are used. Further research is needed to examine the link between glyphosate and birth defects.
- **Nervous System Toxicity:** Laboratory studies suggest that glyphosate is toxic to the nervous system.
- **Antibiotic Resistance:** Glyphosate has the potential to make bacteria less sensitive to antibiotics.

## HOW CAN I REDUCE MY EXPOSURE TO GLYPHOSATE?

- Avoid using weed killers that list glyphosate as the active ingredient.
- Leave shoes, strollers, and wheeled luggage by the door in your home.
- Wash your hands before eating and after spending time outdoors.
- Choose GMO-free foods labeled USDA Organic or Non-GMO Project Verified.
- Advocate for glyphosate bans in public spaces in your community.
- Encourage neighbors to avoid use of glyphosate-containing products.



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