

Diazinon



Pesticides must be reduced from entering Norman's sewerage system in order **to protect our local waters**. Most Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) are unable to effectively treat or remove **diazinon**, which is a pesticide used for the control of insects such as fleas and ticks. At the present time, **diazinon** easily passes through the treatment plant and into the Canadian River. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency requires the City of Norman to minimize introduction, (both direct and indirect via stormwater runoff) through implementation of an ongoing Public Education Program.

Diazinon has a toxic impact, even at very low levels (parts per billion), to common aquatic life forms. This means that every drop counts and that many seemingly harmless practices can have negative results for wildlife. For instance, simple clean up of equipment after the application of diazinon can release pesticide toxicity via household drains into the Canadian River. It is very important to clean up equipment and accessories outdoors over the application area. Another way every citizen can help is to purchase only the amount needed to do the job. If unable to purchase the product in small enough quantity, then share it with a neighbor or civic organization. It is also very important to read and follow the directions for **proper use** and **proper disposal** as listed on the product label. Pesticides can be very dangerous to both you and your aquatic environment when used and/or disposed of carelessly.

The City is also engaged in a construction project at the wastewater treatment plant which should help reduce and maybe even eliminate diazinon in the plant's treated wastewater. The new process will provide longer detention time through the plant and additional aeration, which will enhance the breakdown of diazinon.

The best form of control of diazinon toxicity is source control by keeping it out of the sewer system by being **aware** of where clean up should take place and applying the product when chances of rainfall are minimal. Toxicity control will require the assistance of all the citizens of Norman that use diazinon and other pesticides. Simply switching to a different product might

result in a treatment problem with the alternative pesticide. Never pour any pesticides down any drain.

The City of Norman is offering free brochures on flea and tick control in an effort to help control pesticides entering the sanitary sewer system. To obtain this material you may call the Industrial Pretreatment office of the wastewater treatment plant at 292-9731. Other sources of information include your OSU County Extension agent, veterinarian, and the horticulturists at local garden centers.

Please remember, in Norman, Oklahoma, the amount of diazinon required to produce toxicity to aquatic life is one teaspoon at any location in the City's sewerage system.

