

# DPI Primefact

## Understanding Labels for Chemical Controls of Varroa

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### Note

This information applies to products registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) for use in Australia. Labels on products registered in other countries may look different.

### Introduction

Chemicals registered for Varroa control will have a label affixed to, printed on, or attached to the container, packet, or box. The label may consist of written, printed, and graphical information.

Labels contain information on the identity and proportions of the chemical and its constituents or ingredients. They also contain information on the hazards of the chemical, precautions to be followed during its use, handling and storage, and instructions for the safe disposal of the chemical.

You should always read and understand the information on a label before using a chemical product. Following the label directions is the law.

NOTE: Labels do not always contain all relevant information for safe handling, particularly if something goes wrong. Ensure you refer to the relevant Safety Data Sheet (SDS). Link to SDS prime fact

### What's on a label?

The information written on labels can vary. Products may be available with additional materials or booklets that expand on label content. Not all labels contain all sections discussed below and some may contain additional sections.

1. **Signal heading and instructions**– a relative indication of the severity of the hazard e.g., CAUTION, WARNING etc., KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN, ECOTOXIC

2. **Brand or trade name** - e.g., MITE KILLER

3. **Type of chemical** – a broad description of what the chemical does e.g., Insecticide, herbicide etc.

4. **Active Constituent and concentration** - the part of the chemical that does the work and its percentage e.g., 350mg of knock-em-dead per strip

5. **What the chemical does**- e.g., For the treatment and control of Varroa mites in beehives

6. **Details of manufacturer** – Name, address, and phone number

7. **Hazard pictograms** - are a graphical representation of the chemical's hazardous properties for easy recognition e.g.,



Health Hazards



Corrosive



Severe Health Hazards

**Hazard statements** - e.g., Harmful to aquatic life, May cause respiratory irritation

8. **Directions for use and general instructions** – including how the product is to be applied, withholding periods (e.g., time before harvesting) and restraint (e.g., conditions under which the chemical cannot be used).

This section may also include a NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY PURPOSE... Statement, which limits the use of the product to APVMA approved purposes only.

9. **Precautionary statements**- describes recommended measures to minimise or eliminate risks when handling, using, disposing, or storing the chemical. There are four precautionary statements covering PREVENTION, RESPONSE, STORAGE and DISPOSAL

e.g., Do not breath dust/fume/gas/mist/vapours/spray

Dispose of contents in accordance with local regulations

10. **APVMA approval number, batch number, date of manufacture and expiry date** – all farm chemicals MUST be approved by the APVMA.


# What does a label look like?

The following example is a fictitious chemical label:

The diagram shows a chemical label for 'Mite KILLER™' with various sections and callout boxes. The label content is as follows:




**HARMFUL**  
Keep out of reach of children  
Ecotoxic

**Mite KILLER™**

  
**Acaricide**

**Active Constituent:** Contains 350mg knock-em-dead per strip  
**For the treatment and control of Varroa mites in beehives**

Made up Chemical Company, 123 Chemical St, Chemical Town NSW  
Phone 1300 Varroa

 **CHRONIC**     **ECOTOXIC**     **TOXIC/IRRITANT**

**DANGER:** Harmful if swallowed. Causes serious eye irritation. Harmful to aquatic life.

**DIRECTIONS FOR USE**  
This may include dosage rate, duration, timing, withholding periods and restraint. For more information refer to the Safety Data Sheet.

NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE THAN THAT SPECIFIED BY THE LABEL

**PRECAUTIONS**  
If swallowed immediately call POISONS INFORMATION, rinse mouth. Avoid inhalation of product vapour and oral exposure when opening. DO NOT eat or drink or smoke whilst using.  
**Storage and Disposal**  
Store locked up. Store below 25°C. Dispose of according to local regulations or authorities.  
**Very toxic to fish and aquatic ecosystems, with long-lasting effects.**  
Avoid contamination of any water supply with product, container, or packaging

APVMA Approval Number: 123456  
Batch Number: 789  
Expiry Date: 01/01/2050  
Date of manufacture: 01/01/2035

Callout boxes on the right side of the label identify the following elements:

- Signal heading and instructions
- Brand or trade name
- Type of chemical
- Active constituent and concentration
- What the chemical does
- Manufacturers details
- Hazard pictograms
- Hazard statements
- Directions/general use instructions
- Precautionary statements
- Approvals and critical dates

## Key Take Home Messages

1. Always read and follow the directions on the label
2. Follow the use, handling, storage, and disposal rules on the label
3. An SDS provides different information to a product label
4. Always have the SDS available for reference
5. If in doubt, check the SDS

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## Acknowledgements

For more information on labelling of veterinary chemicals see - [Understanding Pesticide Chemical Labels - English Booklet \(apvma.gov.au\)](#) For more information on labelling of workplace hazardous chemicals visit: [www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au](http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au)

Adapted by K.Lees from: APVMA Understanding Pesticide Chemical Labels – English Booklet and Safe Work Australia- Understanding Hazardous Chemicals Labels

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