

What you need to know about black market pesticides:

Tres Pasitos is typically brought into the United States from the Dominican Republic and Mexico. Tres Pasitos is sold locally as a rat and mouse poison. The active ingredient in Tres Pasitos is aldicarb, which is highly toxic to humans. Symptoms from ingesting it in small quantities include nausea, vomiting, and blurred vision; severe poisoning may result in seizures, coma and death, generally as a result of respiratory depression and pulmonary edema. Tres Pasitos is typically sold either in *bodegas* or by street merchants, in small unlabeled plastic bags, for about \$2-3 per bag.

Chinese Chalk is manufactured in China, and sold by small local merchants, typically in heavily Asian populated communities. Limited analysis suggests the active ingredient in Chinese Chalk is deltamethrin, a highly toxic pesticide. However, since the product is not registered in the United States and the ingredients are not listed on the package, other active ingredients may also be used. The chalk's packaging and instructions contain misrepresentations that the product is harmless and safe to use. Because Chinese Chalk looks like regular chalk, children may take it in their hands and put it in their mouths. Chinese Chalk is sold in small boxes, two sticks per box, usually for \$1.

Tempo is a pesticide registered with both the state and federal governments. In New York State it is a restricted use pesticide. The Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) defines a restricted use pesticide to include those that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner finds so hazardous to humans or other forms of life that restrictions on its sale, purchase, use or possession are in the public interest. The ECL provides that it is unlawful for any person to distribute, sell, offer for sale, purchase for the purpose of re-sale, or possess for the purpose of re-sale any restricted use pesticide without a commercial permit issued by the DEC Commissioner. Further, the holder of a commercial permit can only sell restricted use pesticides to holders of DEC-issued purchase or commercial permits. The active ingredient in Tempo, cyfluthrin, can also be lethal. Tempo is sold on the streets and in stores in violation of the ECL, and is being used at 200-400 times the recommended dosage. It is typically sold for \$15-\$20 per 1.76 ounce individual packet (Tempo is sold in cartons of several packets with instructions). Individual packets do not contain the full labeling required by state and federal regulations.

Try These Options Against Pests Before Using Pesticides

The main focus of your long-term pest control strategy should be to eliminate access of pests to your home and to all sources of food, water and shelter. Pesticides are harmful, generally provide only short-term results and should be used with caution.

- **Don't let pests into your home and don't give them hiding places.**
- **Eliminate sources of food and water.**
- **Use non-chemical methods to get rid of ants and roaches that may already be in your home.**
- **If all else fails, use legal pesticides in bait stations or in gel form with extreme caution. Avoid the use of sprays.**

You can request our pest control brochures "Got Rats? Got Mice? How to Control Rats and Mice and Reduce the Use of Poisons" and "Bug Problems? How to Control Roaches and Ants and Reduce the Use of Poisons" by calling 1-800-771-7755 or visiting www.ag.ny.gov.