



**Municipal Services Agency**

**Department of Water Resources**

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## County of Sacramento

### For Immediate Release

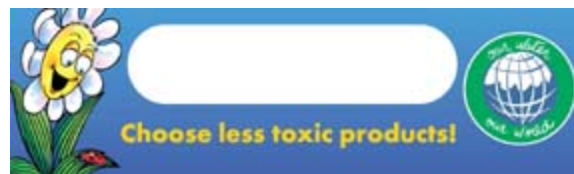
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## Keep Your Garden Green While Going Green

*Sacramento, CA* - Do you know what you're spraying on your garden to kill bugs? Many people surf the aisles at their local hardware store or nursery looking for brand names or products on sale that promise to get rid of bugs in their garden. There are lots of chemical pesticides on shelves but how well do they work, and at what cost to the environment? "People tend to overspray their gardens with toxic pesticides, and rain or their sprinklers wash the chemicals into the storm drain, which go directly into our rivers and creeks. Some of these sprays can actually make pest problems worse," says Dave Tamayo, Environmental Specialist with Sacramento County's Stormwater Quality Group. "We've found a significant amount of pesticides in our local waterways during our testing that have been harming the aquatic ecosystem"

Next time you're at the store, the Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership encourages you to try environmentally friendlier pesticides. They support a program called Our Water Our World (OWOW), which makes it easier for the public to find safer alternatives to conventional pesticides while shopping. OWOW includes over 20 fact sheets in both English and Spanish that offer eco-friendly pest management strategies for specific pests. These fact sheets are placed in local retail outlets that sell pesticides to the public. Shelf tags (called "shelf-talkers") for OWOW products are placed in front of a product to point out those that are eco-friendly, but generally at least as effective as their conventional counterparts. The next time you're at the store, keep an eye out for OWOW shelf tags that look like this:



To find out what retail outlets in your area carry these fact sheets and shelf-talkers, visit [www.sacounty.net](http://www.sacounty.net) (Search: OWOW).

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*"Managing Tomorrow's Water Today"*

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