Plant protection: buyer information

For mail order and online sales in Germany | Updated 14 September 2026

Use plant protection products carefully. Always read the label and product information before use. This information sheet supplements product-specific advice and instructions; it does not replace them.

Before buying: identify the problem and consider alternatives

First identify the pest, disease or other cause and decide whether treatment is necessary. A suitable site, appropriate care, resistant varieties, removing affected plant material, mechanical weed control, protective nets and suitable beneficial organisms can prevent or reduce the need for products. Choose an effective solution with the lowest practicable risk for the situation. Seek advice before buying if you are unsure.

Use only as authorised

Non-professional users must use only products and uses authorised for that user group. Follow the current authorisation and the instructions supplied with your pack: crop, target organism, application site, product dose, water volume, method, timing, maximum treatments, treatment intervals and pre-harvest intervals. An outdoor authorisation does not automatically cover indoor or greenhouse use, or vice versa. Check any applicable use-up deadlines. Do not mix products or fertilisers on the basis of general recommendations alone; all product-specific requirements must be met.

Prohibited use on certain outdoor surfaces

Under section 12(2) of the German Plant Protection Act (PflSchG), application is prohibited on paved outdoor surfaces such as pavements, driveways and patios, and on other outdoor land not used for agriculture, forestry or horticulture. Application in or immediately adjacent to surface waters and coastal waters is also prohibited. The competent authority may grant exemptions for authorised products if the statutory conditions are met. Any such permit must be obtained before application; buying a product does not constitute permission. Breaches may be penalised.

Protect water, protected areas and bees

Observe the water buffer distances applicable to the product, site and German federal state. Section 4a of the Plant Protection Application Ordinance (PflSchAnwV) generally requires 10 m, reduced to 5 m where there is continuous, year-round vegetation cover; statutory exceptions and differing state rules must be considered. Larger product-specific distances remain binding. Additional bans and conditions may apply in nature conservation and water protection areas. Follow bee and pollinator hazard labelling and all associated restrictions. Prevent drift and contamination of water, drains and neighbouring land. Contact the competent plant protection service if local requirements are unclear.

Risks and personal protection

Depending on the product, risks may include skin and eye irritation, allergic reactions, harm from inhalation or swallowing, and harm to animals, beneficial organisms and aquatic life. Products of natural origin also require careful handling. Follow hazard pictograms, signal words and all hazard and precautionary statements. Wear the prescribed protective clothing and equipment. Avoid skin and eye contact and inhaling spray mist or dust. Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling products. Keep children, bystanders and animals away; observe required distances and re-entry periods.

Measure, apply and clean carefully

Prepare only the quantity required. Use suitable measuring equipment and sound equipment intended for the application. Follow the instructions on weather, temperature and ventilation, and avoid drift. Clean equipment as directed. Never pour rinsing water or product residues into sinks, toilets, drains or water bodies. Apply cleaning water only where the instructions and authorised application rates permit this. Wash hands and exposed skin thoroughly afterwards; clean contaminated clothing as instructed for the product.

Safe storage and disposal

Keep products tightly closed in their labelled original packaging, separate from food and animal feed and secured against access by children, animals and unauthorised persons. Follow the storage temperature, humidity and other conditions on the pack. Never transfer products into food or drink containers. Dispose of unusable products and remaining quantities in accordance with local waste rules, for example through a suitable hazardous-waste collection facility. Dispose of empty packaging only as directed on the pack and by the relevant waste collection system. Product residues must not enter household waste or sewers.

If exposed or feeling unwell

Follow the first-aid instructions on the pack immediately. Seek medical advice or contact a poison information centre if symptoms occur or poisoning is suspected; call 112 in an emergency. Have the product name, label and UFI, where applicable, available for advice. Do not induce vomiting unless expressly instructed by a medical professional.

Expert advice and current information

GREEN24: info@green24.de | Telephone +49 234 89016070. Please provide the product, authorisation number, plant, symptoms and intended application site. Product-specific information is available on the product page and packaging. Contact the plant protection service of the relevant German federal state for permits and local restrictions. This sheet concerns use in Germany; check current changes and product-specific conditions before applying a product.

Legal sources and further information (German)

§ 23 PflSchG: Abgabe / supply

§ 12 PflSchG: Anwendung / use

PflSchAnwV: insbesondere §§ 4, 4a / particularly sections 4, 4a

BVL: Pflanzenschutzmittel / plant protection products

BVL: Tipps für Hobbygärtner / advice for home gardeners