

## Pesticides

### Protecting young children

Kids put everything in their mouth. It's part of how they explore their world. Help them explore more safely.

- More studies are revealing the connection between pesticides and health effects
- Pesticides used to control diseases like Lyme from deer ticks carry their own risks
- Pesticide residue may be found long after the initial application, if you are unsure if the grass where your children are playing has been treated, keep their hands washed
- Check with municipalities about where and when they treat of if they have a ban
- Use organic methods for weed control in your yard (we do not support the use of pesticides for weed control for aesthetically appealing lawns)
- Organic methods are not silver bullets (neither are conventional methods) for weed or pest control but rather take a measured long-term approach that can take patience and time



### Around the house and yard



#### In the house

- Always use organic methods first for controlling pests (there are many excellent ways in which to control ants and even fleas with organic methods)
- Buy locally grown and organic foods as you are able



## In the yard and outdoors

- Much of what can be used in the house works well in the yard
- Diatomaceous earth even works for natural tick control (only use food grade and not the variety used in swimming pools), can be found cheaply in the garden section of most hardware stores, and while safe for pets and humans should not be inhaled
- Keep your lawn mowed and dry (clean up sources of water like old tires or kiddie pools), this even helps to reduce pests inside the house
- Wear light colored clothing (to see ticks) and long sleeves (to protect from mosquitos)
- Put clothing in the dryer on high for 10-15 before washing (it kills ticks by drying out their bodies)
- There are a number of effective bug sprays for your person, and if you must use Deet, use only on clothing and never on the skin especially with children
- Keep a sticky lint roller handy (even in your car) to grab ticks from clothing

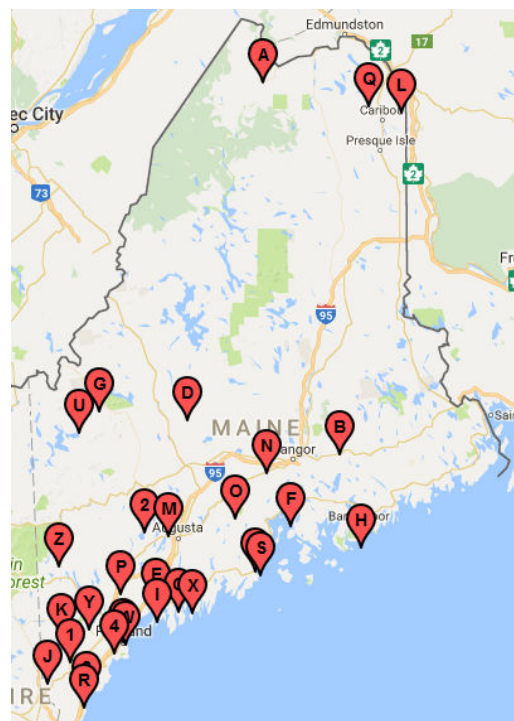


## What we can do together

- Support municipal pesticide bans
- Protect current bans from attacks
- Join and support organizations like PSR Maine

## Maine successes

- About 30 partial and full pesticide bans in Maine
- PSR Maine and partners helped to thwart 3 attempts to rollback bans and prevent new ones



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