

March 30, 2001

Re: Diazinon

Dear :

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced on December 5, 2000, that diazinon, a pesticide widely used in and around American homes, will be taken off the market by August 2003 because of the risks it poses to public health and the environment. We urge you to take it off the shelves of your company's stores immediately.

The EPA's announcement results from an agreement with the manufacturers of diazinon, Sygenta and Makhteshim Agan, under which the manufacturing for indoor use of diazinon will be canceled in March 2001 and all retail sales will stop by December 2002. For all lawn, garden and turf uses, manufacturing stops in June 2003, and all sales and distribution to retailers ends in August 2003. The agreement also begins the process to cancel registration for diazinon use on approximately 20 different food crops.

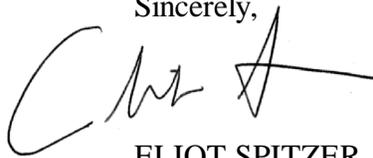
The EPA's action was taken in accordance with the Food Quality Protection Act, which requires an assessment of potential health risks to children. According to the EPA, overexposure to diazinon can cause nausea, headaches, vomiting and diarrhea. In humans, diazinon affects the brain and nervous system. Diazinon use on turf also poses a risks to birds, and it is one of the most commonly found pesticides in air, rain, drinking water and surface water. Diazinon is one of the leading causes of acute insecticide poisoning for humans and wildlife. From 1994 to 1998, diazinon had the highest number of reported bird kill incidents of any pesticide.

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Although diazinon has frequently been used by homeowners on lawns, and for application around the home and in gardens for control of insects and grub worms, these facts and the EPA's determination that there are substitute products for these and other uses, lead us to ask that you consider removing products that contain diazinon from your shelves immediately, especially before spring when home gardeners will be again purchasing pesticides. The availability of alternatives such as reduced risk pesticides, bio-based products, and integrated pest management approaches make pro-active actions on your part clearly in the public interest.

Thank you for considering this request. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Peter Lehner, Chief of the New York Attorney General's Office Environmental Protection Bureau, at (212) 416-8450 or Judith S. Schreiber, Ph.D., a toxicologist in the New York Environmental Protection Bureau at (518) 474-9267.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eliot Spitzer', written over a large, light-colored circular mark.

ELIOT SPITZER
Attorney General
New York

BRUCE M. BOTELHO, Attorney General
Alaska

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, Attorney General
Connecticut

JOHN TARANTINO, Attorney General
Guam

JOSEPH CURRAN, JR., Attorney General
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TOM REILLY, Attorney General
Massachusetts

SHELDON WHITESTONE, Attorney General
Rhode Island