



Pet Safety Quick Reference Card

Every lawn product, every risk level, every wait time. Print this and tape it to your shed.

DOG SAFE



The Universal Rule: Apply → Water In → Let Dry → THEN Let Your Dog Out

Dogs absorb chemicals through paw pads and by licking treated grass. The paw-licking pathway after coming inside is the #1 exposure route. Rinse paws with a wet towel after every outdoor session during any treatment window.

Product Safety Table

PRODUCT TYPE	RISK	WAIT TIME	KEY CONCERN FOR DOGS
Granular fertilizer (Scotts, Lesco)	LOW	24 to 48 hrs	Granule ingestion risk. Water in immediately, let dry completely before dog access.
Milorganite (organic 6-4-0)	LOW	24 hrs	Non-toxic but dogs love the smell. May eat granules → GI upset. Store bag out of reach.
Bone/blood meal, fish emulsion	MODERATE	48 hrs	Dogs attracted to eat it. Can cause pancreatitis, GI obstruction. "Organic" ≠ dog-safe.
Pre-emergent (prodiamine, dithiopyr)	LOW	24 hrs	Low mammal toxicity once watered into soil. Water in immediately after application.
Broadleaf herbicide (2,4-D, dicamba, MCPP)	HIGH	48 to 72 hrs	Linked to canine lymphoma (Tufts, Purdue research). Paw absorption + grass licking.
Triclopyr (Hi-Yield, Ortho)	HIGH	48 to 72 hrs	Dogs metabolize triclopyr more slowly than other mammals (NPIC). Longer exposure window.
Tenacity (mesotrione)	MODERATE	Until dry	Lower mammal toxicity than phenoxy herbicides. Keep off until fully dry (2 to 4 hrs).
Glyphosate (Roundup)	MOD-HIGH	48 to 72 hrs	IARC (WHO): probable carcinogen. EPA disagrees. Keep dogs off regardless of the debate.
Propiconazole (fungicide)	LOW	Until dry	Same chemical class as athlete's foot cream. Low mammal toxicity once dry.
Azoxystrobin (fungicide)	LOW	24 hrs	Keep dogs off for 24 hours after application.
Imidacloprid (grub control)	LOW-MOD	24 to 48 hrs	Water in 0.5" immediately. Granules must dissolve into soil before dog access.
Dylox / trichlorfon (curative grubs)	MODERATE	48+ hrs	Most toxic common grub control. Water in immediately. Use only for confirmed grubs.
Milky spore (biological)	NONE	Immediate	100% pet safe. Targets Japanese beetle grubs only. Zero chemical risk.
Beneficial nematodes	NONE	Immediate	100% pet safe. Microscopic organisms. Water in after application.
Chelated iron	LOW	Until dry	Non-toxic at lawn rates. May temporarily stain paws.

HOW DOGS ACTUALLY GET EXPOSED

The biggest risk is not walking on the lawn. It is what happens after. Dogs walk on treated grass → chemicals stick to paw pads and fur → dog licks paws when they come inside. This oral ingestion pathway is the primary exposure route. **Rinsing paws with a wet towel takes 30 seconds and prevents 80%+ of exposure.**

Year-Round Dog-Safe Application Calendar

MAR/APR Pre-emergent. Water in. 24 hrs off. LOW RISK	APR/MAY Spring fertilizer. Water in. 24 hrs off. LOW RISK	MAY Weed spray. AM only. 48-72 hrs off. ⚠️ HIGHEST RISK	JUN/JUL Grub preventive. Water in. 24-48 hrs. MODERATE
JUL/AUG No chemicals. Fungicide only if needed. SAFEST PERIOD	SEPT Fall fertilizer. Water in. 24 hrs off. LOW RISK	SEP/OCT Fall weed spray. Best time. 48-72 hrs. ⚠️ HIGH RISK	OCT/NOV Winterizer. Water in. 24 hrs off. LOW RISK

TIP 1

Rinse Paws Every Time

Wet towel wipe after every outdoor session during treatment windows. 30 seconds. Prevents paw-licking exposure.

TIP 2

Spot-Treat, Don't Broadcast

6 dandelions? Spray 6 dandelions. Don't broadcast herbicide across the entire lawn for 2% weed coverage.

TIP 3

Plan Around Your Dog

Apply when dog is at daycare, groomer, or on a long walk. Time the highest-risk apps for dog park days.

This is the universal Zone 7B schedule. Your lawn has zones.

The Blade Boss Lawn Command Center lets you schedule every application around your dog's routine.

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