

## Search your stash: 538 cannabis pesticide tests show what's in your weed



Some of the 80 cannabis brands included in more than 500 pesticide tests.  
(Dania Maxwell / Los Angeles Times)

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California's testing requirements for [cannabis products contain major gaps](#). To understand what's being missed and what consumers are exposed to, the Los Angeles Times bought more than 150 products from licensed stores, as well as from tobacco shops and illicit vendors, and had them tested at three state-licensed labs, Anresco Laboratories, SC Labs and Infinite Chemical Analysis Labs.

Those tests were conducted without the labs knowing what brand they tested.

Where available, the tests included expanded screening for more than 290 pesticides and checks for other hazardous materials, such as vitamin E acetate or synthetic cannabinoids.

The Times also obtained data from private market tests conducted on behalf of vape manufacturer Raw Garden and the March and Ash dispensary chain as well as participating labs.

Pesticides [pose a particular threat in inhaled cannabis products](#) such as vapes or prerolls, because toxicants enter the lungs and travel through the bloodstream to internal organs, including the

brain. In addition, heat from combustion causes some pesticides to degrade into harmful gases such as hydrogen cyanide.

In small concentrations, the risks from one-time use are minimal, but increase with repeated exposure over time.

### Hidden chemicals in cannabis

Independent lab tests found 79 toxic chemicals in California cannabis products, including 44 that state regulators don't monitor. Those below are listed in order of the greatest concentration found, with the degree to which they exceed state limits or the federal threshold used to evaluate tobacco pesticides, and the known health effects.

Number of times over permitted residue level or EPA criteria		
<div><div>&lt;1 below threshold</div><div>&gt;1-10</div><div>11-</div><div>50</div><div>51-100</div><div>200+</div><div>400+</div><div>700+</div><div>2,000+</div></div>		
Pesticide	Peak	About and effects
Chlorfenapyr	2,060.6	<b>Insecticide</b> not permitted on any food products; no amount is allowed in California cannabis. <b>Exposure symptoms include</b> nausea, vomiting, headache, difficulty breathing, wheezing, chest tightness and short-term memory loss; combustion (pyrolysis) releases hydrogen cyanide and other toxic gases. In rats, it concentrated in breast milk, causing increased death of offspring.
Pymetrozine	839.4	<b>Insecticide</b> prohibited in the European Union, Canada and Norway and only for restricted use in the United States on food crops. <b>It is a reproductive toxin and carcinogen</b> and in rat studies caused damage to endocrine organs. <b>⚠ Not screened for in California cannabis.</b>
Trifloxystrobin	488.4	<b>Fungicide</b> used on agricultural crops and as a seed treatment. Endocrine disruptor and developmental toxin. <b>Exposure symptoms include</b> headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting and irritated eyes. Pyrolysis creates hydrogen cyanide. Rat studies showed fused bones.
2-Phenylphenol	268	<b>Disinfectant</b> and permitted fungicide on pears and citrus. <b>It is a carcinogen</b> and might also affect the body's natural hormones. <b>⚠ Not screened for in California cannabis.</b>
Bifenazate	237	Restricted-use <b>miticide</b> used on a large variety of crops. <b>Questionable developmental and reproductive toxin and endocrine disruptor.</b>

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