Imidacloprid is an insecticide that can be used on agricultural crops, landscapes, and turf; in and around structures; and as a treatment for fleas on pets. It is used to control insects such as ants, aphids, fleas, lawn grubs, leaf beetles, leafminers, soft scale, termites, ticks, and whiteflies. Imidacloprid can be found in various forms including granules, liquids, and topical solutions for pets.

Potential hazards of imidacloprid:

✦ Slightly toxic to fish.
✦ Moderately toxic to aquatic invertebrates.
✦ Moderately to highly toxic to many game birds.
✦ Highly toxic to bees.
✦ Moderately toxic to earthworms.
✦ Highly toxic to parasitic wasps, some ladybeetles, and other beneficial insects.
✦ Classified as a potential groundwater hazard by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

Water quality issues:

Imidacloprid breaks down slowly in water and sediment, so it is very long lasting. It moves readily in soil and water, increasing its potential to contaminate groundwater.

Tips for keeping imidacloprid out of water:

✦ Avoid applying the granular form to hard surfaces such as driveways and sidewalks.
✦ Sweep up granules that fall onto hard surfaces.
✦ Avoid perimeter sprays on hard surfaces around buildings, especially where water from irrigation or rain can wash the insecticide away.
✦ Do not apply near a body of water or near places where water drains into the street, gutters, or storm drains.
✦ Avoid runoff by not overwatering.
✦ Apply only when needed.
✦ When using as a drench, be sure water does not drain into streets, gutters, or storm drains.
✦ Avoid application before the rainy season.

Options to consider when pesticides are recommended:

✦ Always select the least toxic product that can solve the problem and consider nonchemical alternatives. Always use pesticides in an integrated pest management program that includes a combination of methods.
✦ See the UC IPM Web site, www.ipm.ucdavis.edu, for nonchemical or safer chemical control alternatives.

More about imidacloprid:

✦ Imidacloprid works by disrupting insects’ normal nerve functions. It is a general-use insecticide that is used to control insects that chew or suck to feed.