



FACT SHEET 7.4

PESTICIDE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

Proper pesticide storage and disposal is an important part of good housekeeping on a hobby farm. Poor storage and disposal practices can result in harmful chemicals reaching nearby surface and groundwater, severely impacting water quality. Pesticide storage and disposal practices should start with limiting the amount and type of pesticide stored. Purchase only the minimum of what you need for the current season.

CAUTION!

Pesticides should never be stored outdoors or on pervious surfaces where they can come into contact with soils and stormwater runoff.

PESTICIDE STORAGE AREAS SHOULD:

- ✓ Be located inside a dry secure structure or cabinet that can be locked.
- ✓ Not be in basements, locations containing open floor drains or where there is a potential for flooding.
- ✓ Be kept away from children and pets. Avoid storing pesticides in your general living area.
- ✓ Be located away from both surface and groundwater sources.
- ✓ Be stored away from direct sunlight, freezing temperatures and extreme heat.
- ✓ Be stored separately from food, feed, seeds, animals and animal supplies, fertilizers, petroleum products, lubricants, cleaners and other chemicals to avoid cross-contamination.

When storing pesticides remember to:

- ✓ Store wet and dry pesticides separately if possible.
- ✓ Keep them closed in their original labeled containers unless the container is broken and/or at risk of leaking or spilling. In this case, the material should either be used or disposed of according to the label.
- ✓ Consider storing pesticide containers inside a plastic bin. This bin can provide secondary storage if a spill or leak were to occur while in storage.
- ✓ Immediately clean up pesticides, spills and follow proper disposal practices.
- ✓ Always read the pesticide label prior to storage to ensure you are storing it according to any special labeled storage instructions.
- ✓ Flammable and non-flammable pesticides should be stored separately.

WATER QUALITY BENEFIT

Good pesticide storage and disposal practices combined with efforts to reduce product use can help keep nearby surface and groundwater protected from pesticide contamination.



ACTIVE INGREDIENTS VS. INERT INGREDIENTS

Active ingredients are the chemicals in a pesticide product that control the pest. Inert ingredients are the materials in a pesticide that are added to make the product safer; more effective; and easier to measure, mix, apply, and handle. The pesticide formulation is the mixture of the active and inert ingredients.



For emergency preparedness be sure to:

- Keep Safety Data Sheets (SDS) nearby. SDSs contain more detailed information on the contents, hazards, and proper handling, storage and disposal of a product than may be on a label. You can obtain copies of SDSs from the product manufacturer and in most cases, these are freely available on the Internet. These should be stored in a nearby accessible area.
- Keep emergency clean-up material nearby such as pet litter or other absorbent material along with a shovel and waste container.
- Never hose down pesticide leaks or spills. Contaminated washwater can be highly concentrated and contaminate nearby surface and groundwater resources.
- Keep personal protective equipment such as protective clothing, helmets, goggles, or other garments or equipment designed to protect an individual using the product near the storage area. Types of protective equipment needed are typically specified on the product label or in the SDS.
- An emergency response plan should be developed to include procedures in case of a spill or accident along with emergency contact information.

REMEMBER, THE ABOVE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL PRACTICES ARE SUGGESTED. PESTICIDE LABEL INSTRUCTIONS FOR STORAGE AND DISPOSAL SHOULD BE CLOSELY FOLLOWED.

For pesticide disposal be sure to:

- Read the pesticide label to make sure you are following proper disposal practices. Using, storing or discarding pesticides and their containers in a manner inconsistent with its label is against the law.
- Empty liquid pesticide containers should be triple rinsed with the washwater collected and added to the next dilution.
- Liquid containers that have been triple rinsed and empty dry pesticide containers and bags should be discarded according to the label directions. Generally, this material can be discarded with your regular trash and solid waste.
- Do not recycle or reuse pesticide containers.
- Never pour leftover or unwanted pesticides into a sink, toilet, sewer, dry well or storm drain.
- Most communities hold household hazardous waste days where pesticides can be brought for proper disposal.

HELPFUL LINKS

www.ag.umass.edu/greenhouse-floriculture/fact-sheets/pesticide-storage

www.ag.umass.edu/greenhouse-floriculture/greenhouse-best-management-practices-bmp-manual/pesticide-storage-handling

www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/recycle/hazardous/pesticides.html

www.epa.gov/pesticide-labels/keep-safe-read-label-first