



What you need to know about . . . Disposing of a Pesticide

All pesticide users have the responsibility to properly dispose of pesticide wastes, such as unused chemicals and pesticide containers. Improperly disposed pesticide wastes can create serious hazards for humans, animals, and the environment. Reducing pesticide waste requires careful selection of the correct pesticide and correct quantity, and careful calculation of the amount of pesticide needed for each application.

Do's and don'ts

Read the Label! Follow the disposal directions on the label for more specific or special requirements.

Remember that state and local laws for disposal may be more restrictive than directions on the label. Check with your local solid waste authority or the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) before disposing of excess pesticides and recycling pesticide containers.

NEVER pour pesticides down the drain, on the ground, or in a storm sewer.

Unless directed by the pesticide label, DO NOT bury or burn pesticides and/or pesticide containers.

Three types of pesticide wastes that require proper disposal are:

1. Unused pesticides that remain in the original container
2. Pesticide mixtures that are left unused after an application
3. Empty pesticide containers

Dispose of unused pesticide in its original container

CHEMSWEEP Program

CHEMSWEEP is a waste pesticide collection program designed to give all Pennsylvania citizens a way to dispose of old, unusable, or unwanted pesticide products.

At no cost, participants can legally dispose of waste pesticides.

To participate, contact PDA at 717-772-5231 or visit www.pested.psu.edu/pdaprog.html on the Internet.

Some communities have household hazardous waste collections; however, not all may accept pesticide products. Contact your local solid waste authority.

Always remember to
Read the Label!



Dispose of unused pesticide mixtures

To avoid the problem of excess mixture, carefully calculate and measure the amount of pesticide required for the application.

After application, if excess mixture remains, it should be applied according to label directions to your property or given to a friend or neighbor for them to apply.

Never store diluted pesticides in sprayers.

Dispose of empty pesticide containers

When the pesticide product has been completely used from its original container, empty bags should be shaken clean, while empty drums, bottles, or cans must be triple-rinsed.

The Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program is designed for homeowners and certified applicators to dispose of triple-rinsed pesticide containers by dropping them off at designated points throughout the state.

To be recycled, containers must be free of any pesticide residue inside and outside.

Visit www.pested.psu.edu/pdaprog.html on the Internet or contact PDA at 717-772-5231.

Empty, triple-rinsed pesticide containers can possibly be recycled with your local recycling program, depending on local ordinances.

Triple-rinsing pesticide containers

Triple-Rinse Process

Triple-rinse immediately after last application or the pesticide product may become difficult to remove.



1. Wearing gloves, empty contents of container into sprayer.



2. Fill container 1/5 full of water.



3. Replace cap and shake container for 30 seconds.



4. Drain rinse water into sprayer.



5. Repeat two more times, shaking container in different directions.



6. Rinse the outside of the container.

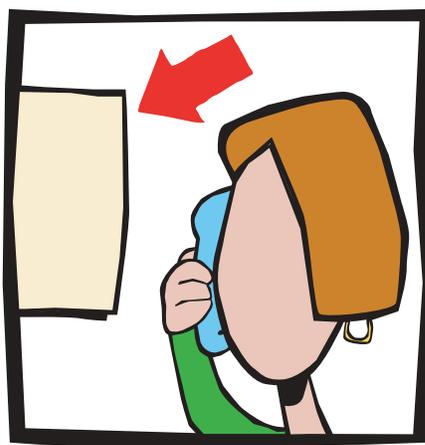


7. Remove foil seal and label booklet.

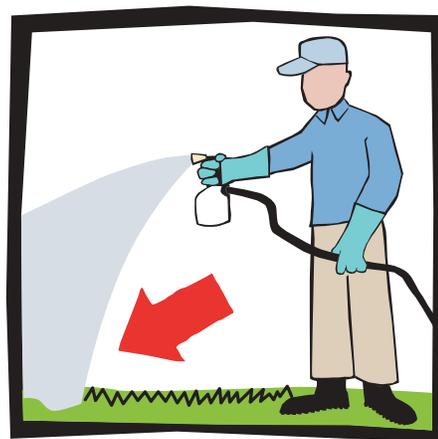


8. Render unusable. Never reuse a pesticide container for any purpose.





9. Recycle the container! Even though the pesticide container may be “pesticide free” from the triple-rinse process, do not recycle with the normal household recycling. Use Pennsylvania’s Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program.



10. Diluted rinse material remaining in the sprayer should be sprayed according to the label where the pesticide was intended to be used.

For More Information

PENN STATE PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

114 BUCKHOUT LABORATORY

UNIVERSITY PARK, PA 16802-4506

E-mail: pesticide@psu.edu

Web site: www.pested.psu.edu/

Visit Penn State’s College of Agricultural Sciences on the Web: www.cas.psu.edu

Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences research, extension, and resident education programs are funded in part by Pennsylvania counties, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

This publication is available from the Publications Distribution Center, The Pennsylvania State University, 112 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802. For information telephone 814-865-6713.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of Congress May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Legislature. T. R. Alter, Director of Cooperative Extension, The Pennsylvania State University.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. It is the policy of the University to maintain an academic and work environment free of discrimination, including harassment. The Pennsylvania State University prohibits discrimination and harassment against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Discrimination or harassment against faculty, staff, or students will not be tolerated at The Pennsylvania State University. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901, Tel 814-865-4700/V, 814-863-1150/TTY.

© The Pennsylvania State University 2003

Produced by Information and Communication Technologies in the College of Agricultural Sciences

CAT UO214 30M2/03nvo4579