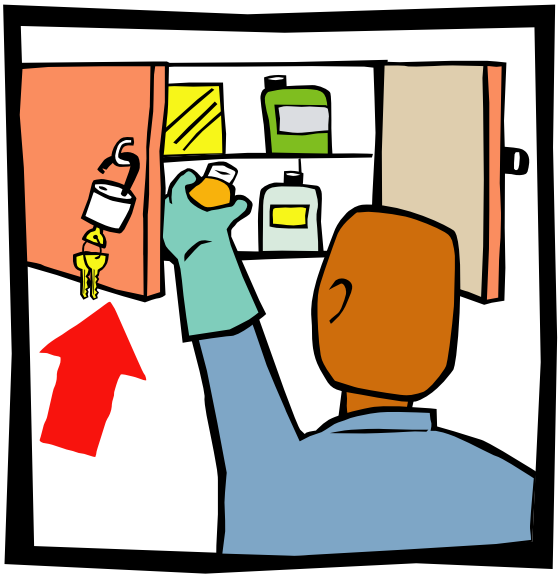
PENNSTATE
College of Agricultural Sciences • Agricultural Research and Cooperative Extension
Pesticide Education Program

What you need to know about . . .

Storing a Pesticide

Where do you store your pesticides? A nationwide study by the Environmental Protection Agency revealed that almost one-half of surveyed households with children under the age of 5 had at least one pesticide stored within their reach. Proper pesticide storage helps prolong chemical shelf life while protecting the health of people, animals, and the environment. Shelf life is the period of time a pesticide can be stored before it becomes less effective or uneffective. **Read the product label for specific storage information.**

Store pesticides in locked cabinets.



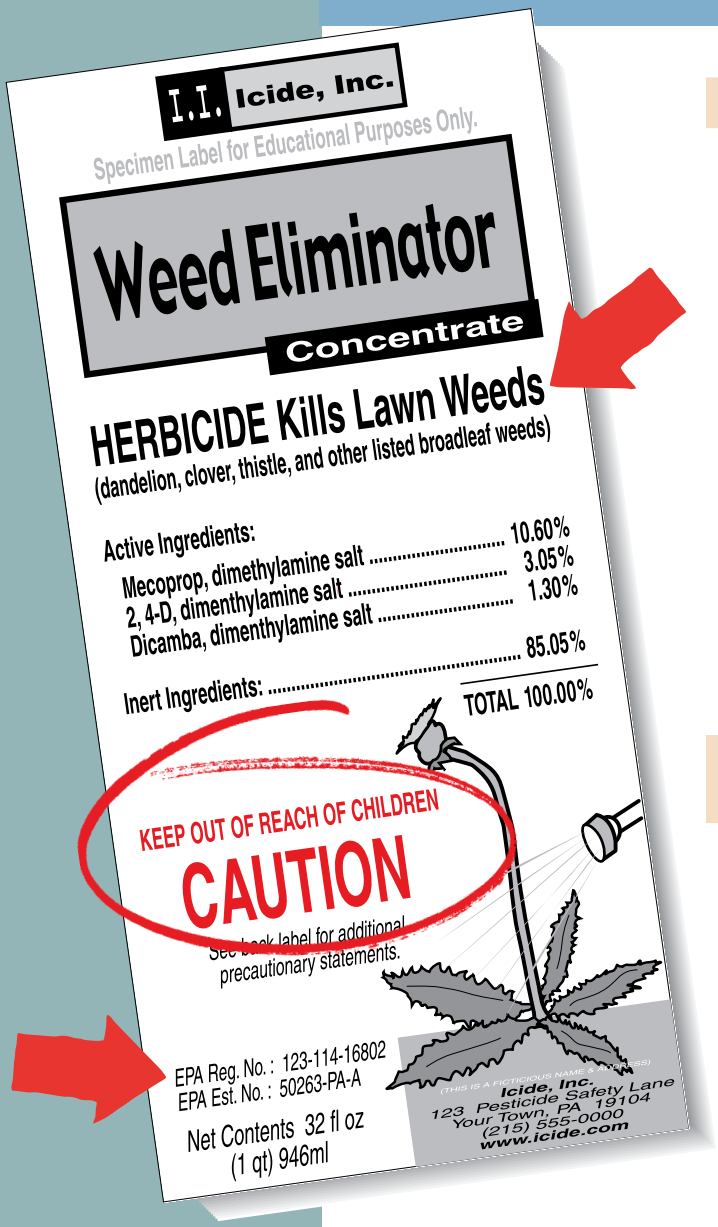
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

Store pesticides in locked cabinets (preferably metal) at least 5 feet above ground away from children and pets. Even if you don't have children, relatives and friends may bring their children to your home.

Do not store pesticides where flooding is possible or water damage is likely to occur. Also avoid areas where a spill could get into a well, groundwater, or surface water.

Always store pesticides in their original containers with their tops tightly closed.

The pesticide label should be attached to or accompany the product at all times.



What is a pesticide?

A pesticide is any product that makes a claim that it controls pests, has a signal word, and has an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registration number.

A claim may indicate that the pesticide controls, kills, eradicates, repels, deters, etc., certain pests.

The four signal words on pesticide products are **DANGER ☠ POISON**, **DANGER**, **WARNING**, and **CAUTION**.

An EPA Registration number indicates that a product has been registered and its label was approved for sale by the EPA.

Never store pesticides in any food or drink containers.

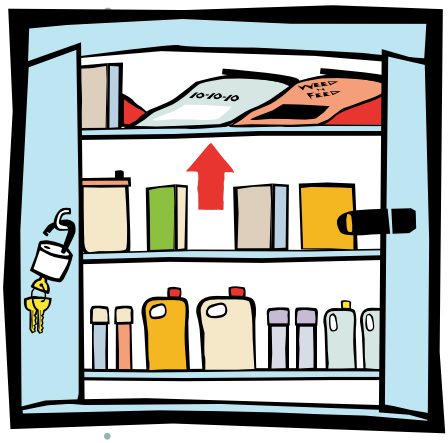
People, especially children, recognize the shape and color of these types of containers, and they may mistake them for something safe to eat or drink, causing an accidental poisoning.

Never store pesticides in cabinets near food, potable water, animal feed, medical supplies, protective clothing, seed, fertilizers, or gasoline.

This will prevent contamination of these products from vapors, dusts, or spills, and reduce the likelihood of accidental human, animal, or environmental exposure.

Keep pesticides stored in cool, dry areas to avoid temperature extremes.

Very high or very low temperatures can cause pesticide deterioration.



Store dry pesticides above liquid pesticides.

This will prevent the liquid pesticide from spilling or leaking onto the dry pesticides and contaminating them.

Never store pesticides in application equipment.

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

After applying, if excess mixture remains in application equipment, such as sprayers and spreaders, it should be applied according to label directions to your property.

Keep emergency numbers handy.

Keep emergency numbers near your storage area and/or the phone, including the National Poison Center Number: 1-800-222-1222.

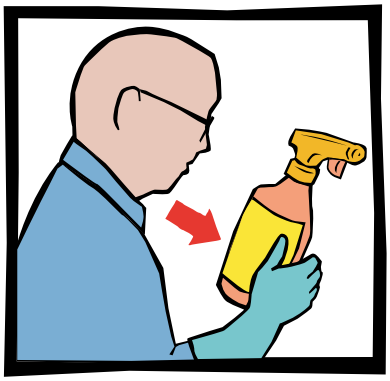
POISON Help™
1-800-222-1222

Reduce storage needs by buying only the amount and type of pesticide needed for the upcoming year.

Mark the date of purchase on container and use older products first. An annual inventory will help eliminate the accumulation of old and outdated pesticides, which can become less effective after they are opened.

Place Mr. Yuk stickers on pesticide products so children know not to touch. Order Mr. Yuk stickers from www.pested.psu.edu

Read the label!



Follow the storage directions on the label for more specific or special requirements to prevent degradation, contamination, and accidental exposure.

For More Information

Contact your county Penn State Cooperative Extension office:
www.extension.psu.edu/extmap.html

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