

# Safe Pesticide Storage and Disposal

Editor's note: Our Tailgate Training Tip Sheets are [available in Spanish at www.gemplers.com](http://www.gemplers.com).

## KEY POINTS:

- Read the pesticide label for safe storage and disposal instructions.
- Always wear PPE when handling pesticides or pesticide containers.
- Don't store pesticides near food, children, animals, clothing or PPE.

*Note to trainer: Follow this script or use it to help guide you through a 10- to 15-minute tailgate training session for your ag/hort workers. You may photocopy this sheet for your employees' personal use. However, it may not be published or sold.*



## Undiluted pesticides are dangerous

- Even small amounts of undiluted pesticides may:
  - significantly damage the environment
  - contaminate your clothing
  - result in serious illness or death to people or animals
- That's why it's important to be extra cautious when storing pesticides. It's also important to take certain safety precautions when disposing of them.

## Tips for safe pesticide storage

1. Always read the pesticide label for specific storage instructions.
2. Store pesticides in their original, labeled containers. Be sure the labels are legible.
3. Containers should be marked with the date of purchase. This will help you use the oldest products first.
4. Never store pesticides in soda bottles or food containers – no matter how small an amount. Accidental poisonings by ingestion can and do occur.
5. Store pesticides in cool, dry areas, protected from moisture and temperature extremes. Freezing or heat may cause pesticide containers to break. It can also reduce or destroy the effectiveness of some pesticides.
6. Avoid storing pesticides in full sun or near such heat sources as heaters, incinerators or gas-powered equipment. Many pesticides are flammable and may explode or ignite.
7. Store pesticides away from personal protective equipment, clothing, food, seed, cleaning materials and oily rags.
8. Store pesticides out of the reach of children and animals to avoid an accident.
9. Store pesticides in a locked area with a warning sign on the door.  
*Note to trainer: Tell trainees where pesticides are stored on your operation. Also describe the warning signs you use.*
10. Avoid storing pesticides in areas where flooding is possible, or in places where they might spill or contaminate the environment.
11. Separate different types of pesticides in the storage area. This will help prevent contamination and the accidental use of the wrong chemical.



**Never store pesticides in soda bottles.**

*(Continued on back)*

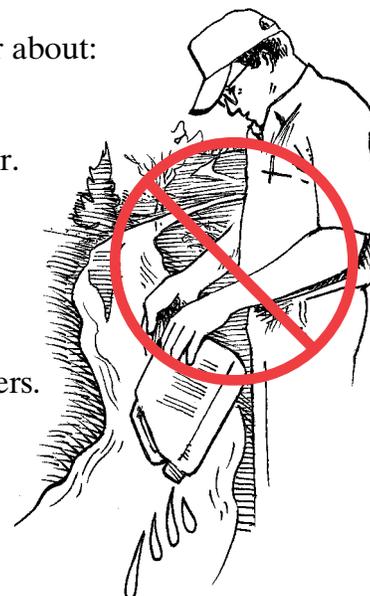
See our [full line of safety supplies](#), including respirators, eye and ear protection, coveralls, first aid and more.

# Safe Pesticide Storage and Disposal

## Disposing of leftover pesticides

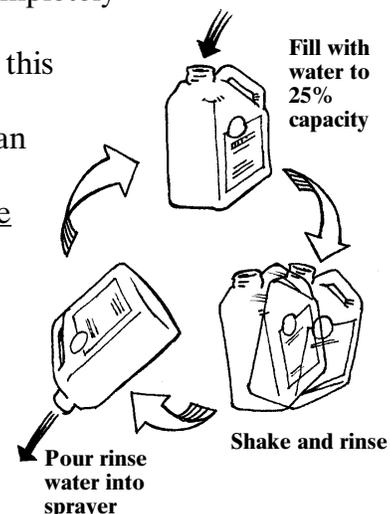
- Never dump leftover pesticides on the ground, into or near water, down a toilet or a drain.
- If you have a small amount of pesticides left over, talk to your supervisor about:
  - applying the pesticide to another site listed on the label, following all label directions, or
  - giving the leftover pesticide to another trained and qualified applicator.
- If you must dispose of the pesticide, carefully follow all label directions.

**Note to trainer:** Tell trainees your policy for disposing of pesticides at your operation.



## What to do with empty pesticide containers

- Always wear PPE required by the label when handling pesticide containers.
- Never reuse an empty pesticide container for any purpose.
- Don't bury pesticide containers, don't burn them, and don't take them home.
- Emptied pesticide containers should be triple rinsed. Do this immediately after use by following these steps:
  - Fill the empty container with clean water until it is one-quarter full.
  - Put the cap on. Carefully shake or roll the container so the water completely rinses the inside.
  - Pour the rinse water from the container into the spray tank. Repeat this procedure two more times.
- See your supervisor if you are uncertain whether a specific container can be triple rinsed.
- Another way to rinse pesticide containers is with a high pressure nozzle specifically designed for that purpose. Ask your supervisor if you are uncertain whether that equipment is available to you.
- Follow your supervisor's instructions for temporarily storing clean pesticide containers. Your supervisor may be able to recycle them through an approved container recycling program.



## Are there any questions?

**Note to trainer:** Take time to answer trainees' questions. Then review the **Pesticide Storage and Disposal Do's and Don'ts**.

### PESTICIDE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL DO'S AND DON'TS

**DO:**

- Always store pesticides in their original, labeled containers.
- Immediately report any pesticide leaks or spills to your supervisor.
- Triple rinse pesticide containers immediately after they are empty.

**DON'T:**

- Ever store pesticides in soda bottles or food containers.
- Transport pesticide containers in the passenger compartment of your car or truck.
- Eat, drink or smoke in the pesticide storage room.

See our [full line of safety supplies](#), including respirators, eye and ear protection, coveralls, first aid and more.