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

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** on the Internet.

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

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.

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

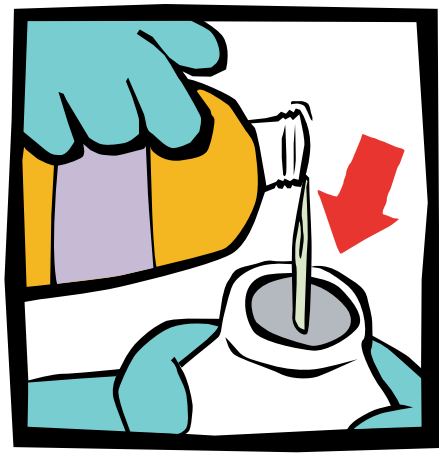
Empty, triple-rinsed pesticide containers can possibly be recycled with your local recycling program, depending on local ordinances.

To find local HHW collection sites, go to **www.depweb.state.pa.us** and type "HHW" into the search. The HHW page will have a link to the upcoming scheduled collection programs.

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 $\frac{1}{5}$ full of water.

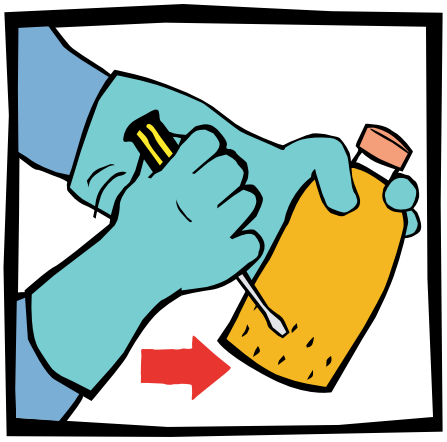
3. Replace cap and shake container for 30 seconds.

4. Drain rinse water into sprayer.

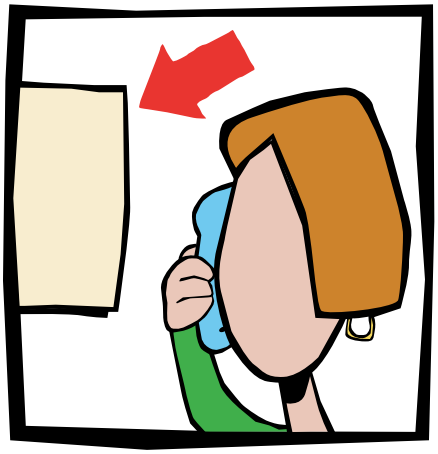
5. Repeat two more times, shaking container in different directions.

6. Rinse the outside of the container.

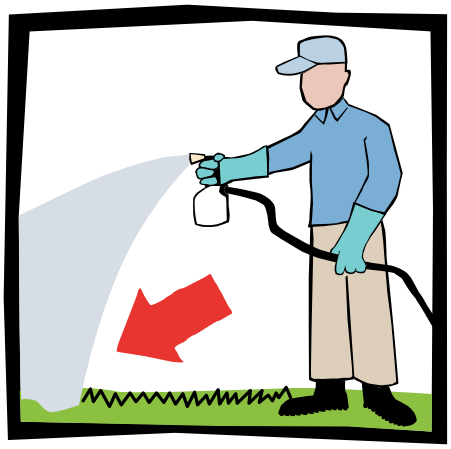
7. Remove foil seal and label booklet.



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



9. Recycle the container! Contact your local HHW collection facility for dates and locations.



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

Although the label may indicate that a pesticide container can be disposed of by wrapping in newspaper and placing in the trash, **we highly recommend** using the HHW collection program in your area.

For More Information

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

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