

## Waste Pesticide Management

### How to avoid producing excess spray solutions, pesticide contaminated rinsewaters, absorbents and empty pesticide containers

Environmentally sound management of pesticide waste and empty pesticide containers is in everyone's best interest. Accidental release or indiscriminate discharge of pesticide waste into the environment can harm people and contaminate surface and groundwater. Pesticide contaminated water poses a hazard to non-target organisms such as plants, beneficial insects, fish and other aquatic life.

This factsheet is produced for people who use pesticides in industrial processes, crop and livestock production, and forest management. It describes how to dispose of excess pesticide spray solutions, pesticide-contaminated rinsewaters and pesticide-containing absorbent. This factsheet does not cover how to dispose of unused pesticide products. For that information, refer to DEQ's "Managing Waste Pesticides" fact sheet.

#### What is pesticide waste?

Pesticide wastes are materials containing pesticide that cannot or will not be used and will be discarded and disposed of. By definition, pesticide wastes are "hazardous wastes" in Oregon. Pesticide wastes include, but are not limited to:

- Surplus spray solution, ultra-low volume (ULV) spray concentrate, dusts, granules, or baits remaining in the application equipment (such as tanks, hoppers, booms, hoses) after use.
- Pesticide-contaminated water produced by cleaning the interior surfaces of the pesticide application equipment or from rinsing empty pesticide containers.
- Pesticide-contaminated absorbent, water, or other materials generated from cleaning up spilled spray solutions.
- Empty, contaminated (unrinsed) pesticide containers.

Note: Spills of all pesticides, including pesticide wastes, must be reported to the Oregon Emergency Management Division (1-800-452-0311) and must be cleaned up according to Oregon revised regulation 340-142-0060.

#### What is not a pesticide waste?

Any pesticide-containing material that is used or reused according to label instructions for its intended purpose is not considered a pesticide

waste. In addition, pesticide wastes do not include pesticide-containing materials when pesticides were applied according to label instructions. For examples, treated soil, foodstuff, water, vegetation, and treated seeds are not pesticide waste when disposed of.

#### Pesticide wastes are hazardous waste.

Pesticide-containing materials that cannot or will not be reused (i.e., pesticide wastes), and must be disposed are "hazardous wastes" and are designated "pesticide residue" generated from two sources:

- The point of application (in the field and essentially limited to agriculture and silviculture); and
- Permanent bases of operation (i.e., places where equipment is stored, such as an airfield or pesticide dealership).

How pesticide waste is managed for disposal varies depending on the point of generation of waste.

#### How to avoid making pesticide wastes

Here are some important methods to help you avoid pesticide waste generation:

- Purchase no more pesticide than can be used in one season,
- Measure, mix and load only enough pesticide to do the job,
- Apply all the pesticide spray solution according to the highest industry standards and label instructions, onto the target site,
- Completely remove dry or liquid pesticide formulations from the containers. Drain containers holding liquids until dripping stops, and
- In the field, use water or another specified diluting agent and multiple rinse (rinse at least three times) or pressure wash empty containers as often as necessary until the container is clean. Always add the collected rinse solution to the spray solution. In the field, collect pesticide-contaminated water produced by high pressure, low volume cleaning (this method reduces volume) of the interior surfaces of the pesticide application equipment, such as the spray or mixing tanks, booms, hoses, or spray guns.



State of Oregon  
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#### Land Quality Division Hazardous Waste Program

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(800) 452-4011  
Fax: (503) 229-6977  
[www.oregon.gov/deq](http://www.oregon.gov/deq)

Spray the collected mixture onto the previously treated area, sites or targets, described on label.

If you cannot spray the rinsates or if there is leftover pesticide or pesticide-containing material because of error or miscalculation, do the following:

- Collect the material in a container. Hold it for use in the next application.
- Label the container with 'the name of the pesticide contents and EPA Registration Number.
- Date the container to keep track of which rinsates or mixtures to use first.

These materials may be used as a "product."

### **How to manage empty pesticide containers**

Contaminated, empty containers (unrinsed containers) are "hazardous wastes" unless they are accepted by a pesticide distributor or manufacturer for refill or are decontaminated. If discarded, contaminated containers must be disposed of as hazardous waste. This expensive practice can be avoided by decontaminating them. At the time of emptying, decontaminate rigid containers such as plastic pails or drums, metal pails or drums, and, fiber containers by:

- Pressure or multiple rinsing (multiple rinse with the appropriate diluent at least, three times, or as often as necessary to make the container clean; if possible, multiple rinse non-rigid containers such as paper containers lined with plastic or foil. Always use this rinsate for your next batch of pesticide spray mix.
- Visually verifying that the residues have been removed from the inside and outside of the containers;
- Drying (the container's interior surfaces should be dried before crushing); and
- Crushing or physically altering, such as puncturing, the containers.

**(Note:** One and five gallon metal containers are to be punctured with at least three one-inch holes in the top and bottom before crushing. Thirty and fifty-five gallon containers are required to have both the tops and bottoms cut out and then flattened. Plastic containers do not need to be crushed.)

Decontaminated containers can and should be recycled. For more information on the collection and recycling of decontaminated metal or plastic pesticide containers, contact the **Oregon Agricultural Chemicals and Fertilizers Association (OACFA) at 503-370-7024.**

**If you reuse your rinsates AND avoid generating excess spray mixtures AND purchase only the amount of pesticide you need, THEN you have no wastes to dispose of. Stop Here!!**

However, if you have unusable pesticide containing materials, and they cannot be reused, then disposal is your only option. Consult DEQ's "How to dispose of unusable or unwanted pesticide spray solutions, pesticide contaminated rinsewaters and pesticide-containing absorbent" factsheet for information on how to dispose of pesticide waste.

### **Where can I find more information on managing pesticides waste?**

For more information on the management of waste pesticides, visit DEQ waste pesticide web page at [www.deq.state.or.us/lq/hw/pesticide.htm](http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/hw/pesticide.htm) or contact:

- The nearest DEQ Regional Office,
- **Oregon Department of Agriculture**  
Plant Division  
635 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97310-0110  
503-986-4635, or
- **Oregon State University**  
Department of Environmental and  
Molecular Toxicology  
Ag & Life Sciences Building – Room 1007  
Attn: Extension Pesticide Coordinator  
Corvallis, OR 97331  
541-737-1811

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### **Alternative formats**

*Alternative formats (Braille, large type) of this document can be made available. Contact DEQ's Office of Communications & Outreach, Portland, at (503) 229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696.*

