
RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, RECREATIONAL & GOVERNMENTAL PEST-CONTROL OPERATIONS

The Oregon State University Extension Service provides education and information based on timely research to help Oregonians solve problems and develop skills related to youth, family, community, farm, forest, energy, and marine resources.

Extension’s agricultural program provides education, training, and technical assistance to people with agriculturally related needs and interests. Major program emphasis is on food and fiber production, farm business management, marketing and processing of agricultural products, and resource use and conservation.

This publication was prepared by Joseph Capizzi, Extension entomology specialist, Oregon State University, in support of the ad hoc committee on waste-pesticide management convened by the State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. The committee included representatives of the State of Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon State University’s Entomology Department, the International Pesticide Applicators Association, the Oregon State Association of Vector Agencies, and the Pest Control Operators of Oregon.

Extension Service, Oregon State University, Corvallis, O. E. Smith, acting director. This publication was produced and distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914. Extension work is a cooperative program of Oregon State University, the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and Oregon counties.

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Oregon State University Extension Service
Extension Circular 1156 / July 1983

Note these addresses, too . . .

Oregon Dept. of Agriculture
Plant Division
Agriculture Building
635 Capital Street, NE
Salem, OR 97310
378-3776

Oregon State University
Extension Entomology
2025 Cordley Hall
Corvallis, OR 97331
754-3131

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What is a waste pesticide?

Pesticides are materials that control weeds, insects, plant diseases, and such diverse animal life as nematodes, slugs, rodents, and predatory vertebrates. Pesticides are unwanted:

- Pesticide formulations or products.
- Surplus spray mixture, ultralow-volume (ULV) spray concentrate, dusts, granules, or baits remaining in the pesticide application equipment (such as tanks, hoppers, booms, hoses) after use.
- Pesticide-contaminated water produced by cleaning the interior surfaces of the pesticide application equipment and empty pesticide containers.
- Pesticide-contaminated water produced by cleaning the exterior surfaces of the application equipment.
- Pesticide-contaminated absorbents, water, or other materials generated from cleaning up spilled material.

Why is waste pesticide management so important?

Indiscriminate discharge of waste pesticide into the environment can harm people and contaminate surface or ground waters. Pesticide-contaminated water can also pose a hazard to non-target organisms such as plants, beneficial insects, fish, and other aquatic life.

How can the amount of waste pesticide be minimized?

- Measure, mix, and load only enough pesticide to do the job. Apply all the pesticide onto the target area. If there is, by error or miscalculation, some leftover pesticide, collect it in a container (labeled as to its contents) and hold it for use in the next application.
- Completely remove dry or liquid pesticide formulations from the containers. Drain containers holding liquids until dripping stops.
- Using water (or another specified diluting agent), rinse empty containers at least three times or as often as required to make the rinse solution clear. Add the collected rinse fluid to the spray mixture.
- Collect pesticide-contaminated water produced by cleaning the interior surfaces of the pesticide application equipment and empty pesticide containers.
- Collect pesticide-contaminated water produced by cleaning the exterior surfaces of the application equipment.

How should waste pesticide be managed?

- Wash exterior of application equipment at the site where it is used or on your own property in such a way that wastewater will not enter wells, storm drains, drainage ditches, streams, creeks, lakes, or rivers.
- Dispose of small quantities of waste pesticide (up to 1 gallon or 10 pounds per month) at any landfill. Obtain the landfill operator's permission.
- Dispose of any quantity of waste pesticide, including pesticide formulation or product, at an authorized chemical waste collection or disposal site. Contact the nearest Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regional office for locations. (See pages 6-7 for addresses.)
- Construct a waste pesticide containment and treatment system or develop other equivalent waste pesticide management methods. Contact the Department of Entomology at Oregon State University or the DEQ for design consideration. (See pages 6-7 for addresses.)

How should empty pesticide containers be managed?

- At the time of emptying, decontaminate rigid containers (such as cans, buckets, pails, or drums made of plastic, metal, glass, or fiber) by (1) jet or multiple rinsing; (2) visually verifying that all residues have been removed; and (3) crushing. If possible, also decontaminate non-rigid containers such as paper containers lined with plastic or foil.
- Decontaminated metal containers can be recycled. Take them to the nearest scrap metal collection, metal recasting, pesticide-manufacturing, distributing, or recycling facility that will accept them for recycling. Contact the facility for terms of acceptance.
- Dispose of any decontaminated "danger—poison" containers (rigid and non-rigid containers and contaminated paper containers) at a DEQ authorized landfill. Obtain the landfill operator's permission. Contact the DEQ for a list of authorized landfills in your area. (See pages 6-7 for addresses.)
- Dispose of decontaminated containers labelled "warning—caution" (rigid and non-rigid) at any landfill. Obtain the landfill operator's permission.
Managing Waste Pesticides and Empty Pesticide Containers: A "How to" Guide for

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