
AGRICULTURAL & SILVICULTURAL 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 Oregon Farm Bureau Federation, the Oregon Agricultural Chemicals Association, and the Oregon Agricultural Aviation Trades Association.

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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Environm entally sound management of waste pesticides and empty pesticide containers is in everyone's best interest. This publication describes techniques that can insure proper management. It was written for people who use pesticides in crop, livestock and forest management. The techniques described comply with Oregon Administrative Rules, 340-63-125, 340-63-130, and 340-63-135.

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 vermin. Waste pesticides are unwanted:

- Pesticide formulations or products.
- Surplus spray mixture, ultralow-volume (ULV) spray concentrate, dusts, granules, or baits remaining in the application equipment (such as tanks, hoppers, booms, hoses) after use.
- 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 nontarget 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 and store surplus pesticide mixtures, dusts, granules, ULV concentrate or baits for a future application.
- Collect pesticide-contaminated water produced by cleaning the interior surfaces of the pesticide application equipment (such as the spray or mixing tanks, booms, hoses, or spray guns). Spray the collected mixture onto the previously treated area or use it for makeup water in a new batch.

How should waste pesticide be managed?

1. 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, surface waters or any adjacent surface waters or any well. Where it is treated and put to a use that is possible, to speed up the biological breakdown of all the waste pesticides. For assistance in determining suitable sites and acceptable waste pesticide management practices, contact the DEQ or the Department of Entomology at Oregon State University.
2. Dispose of decontaminated pesticide generated at a home base, such as a farm or pesticide equipment rental business, must be managed in accordance with a Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) permit or letter of authorization. Contact the nearest DEQ regional office for assistance. (See pages 6-7 for addresses.)
3. Dispose of any decontaminated container labeled "danger—poison" (rigid and nonrigid 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.)
4. Dispose of decontaminated containers labeled "warning—poison" (rigid and non-rigid) at any landfill. Obtain the landfill operator's permission.
5. Farmers may bury on their property empty contaminated paper and other decontaminated containers resulting from their own use of pesticides if the burial location is on flat ground and at least 500 feet from surface waters or any well.
6. Farmers may burn on their property empty contaminated paper and other decontaminated containers resulting from their own use of pesticides if the burial location is on flat ground and at least 500 feet from surface waters or any well.

How should empty 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 the residues have been removed; and (3) crushing. If possible, also jet or multiple rinse nonrigid 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-reclaiming, pesticide-manufacturing, distributing, or retailing facility that will accept them for recycling. Contact the facility for terms of acceptance.
- Dispose of any decontaminated container labeled "danger—poison" (rigid and nonrigid 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.)
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Managing Waste Pesticides and Empty Pesticide Containers:
A "How to" Guide for

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