



Information Sheet

11. GENERAL

11.2 Disposal of excess pesticides and empty pesticide containers

Some points to remember when dealing with waste

- When purchasing chemicals, calculate the approximate amount needed for the season to avoid accumulation.
- Dispose of waste as it arises.
- Always read the product label and, if in any doubt, consult the distributors.
- Provide protective clothing.
- Never dump chemicals or containers indiscriminately.

Types of waste you have to contend with

Unused product

If a product has deteriorated, ask the supplier if he can dispose of it. Burial on the farm is permitted if quantities are small.

Spillage and leaks

Powders and granules should be mixed with dry sand or earth, swept up and shovelled into containers that can be sealed.



Always wear protective clothing when disposing of pesticide waste.

Liquid waste should be absorbed with sand or earth and shovelled into a sealable container. The area should be washed and the contaminated water absorbed with a suitable material. It is advisable to bury this type of waste.

Contaminated clothing

Slightly contaminated clothing can be washed several times in a suitable detergent. Heavily contaminated clothing should be torn up and buried or burnt.

Empty containers

Invert the container over the opening of the tank until the flow has slowed to a drip. Add water until the container is a quarter full, replace the cap and shake. Pour this into the tank and repeat the procedure three times (see diagram). The container can then be buried or burnt.



Cans and bottles must be made unusable after draining and rinsing three times.

Excess pesticide in the spray tank

Remaining pesticide should be diluted tenfold and sprayed onto the treated land, with the operator or tractor moving at twice the normal speed. This will increase the dose rate by only 5%.

Burning of waste material

Cleaned plastic, paper and cardboard packaging, as well as cleaned containers (except PVC or metal) may be burned on the farm. This should be carried out in a perforated drum, and the ash buried afterwards.



Uncontaminated paper and cardboard and some plastic containers may be burnt on the farm. PVC and metal may not be burnt.

Burial of waste materials

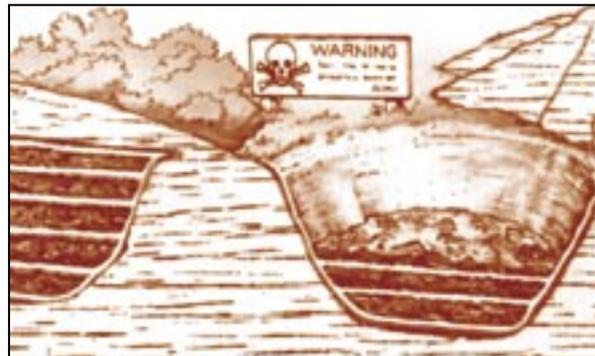
Burial of containers is also permitted, but some preparation is required beforehand. Bottles should be crushed in a bag, and metal drums punctured and flattened as shown in the diagram. Plastic bottles should be cut into pieces.



Empty containers must be reduced in bulk as much as possible.

Burial pits should be safely located on a heavy clay soil, away from humans and animals. The site should not drain into an area that would cause contamination of the environment.

The pit should be 2-3 m in diameter and 1,0-1,5 m deep, and at least 2 m above ground water level. Waste should be added in layers of not more than 10-15 cm, with lime and household waste or compost added to assist degradation. Small quantities of concentrated waste should be diluted before disposal (if in doubt, contact the supplier for advice).



Layers of waste covered with lime, household waste and compost.

Allow for a final earth layer of 50 cm on the top that can be planted to vegetation. At this stage the next pit can be dug. Waste burial sites should be fenced off and well signposted.

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