

NATIONAL
PESTICIDE
SAFETY
EDUCATION
MONTH

Pesticide Storage & Handling

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Why It's Important

- Protect yourself and others from potential harm.
- Reduce liability if others visit your operation or come across pesticides.
- Reduce likelihood of negative environmental impacts.
- Legal ramifications if label storage & handling instructions are not followed.
- Ensure quality of product through expiration date.

Pesticide Transportation – Dealer to Storage

- Federal Requirements
 - If you are transporting a pesticide labeled “Hazardous Material” you may need to ...
 - Carry shipping papers in your vehicle, which have an emergency response telephone number,
 - Carry Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for the pesticides in transport,
 - Receive training concerning DOT HazMat regulatory requirements
 - Be sure that packages are properly labeled and/or marked,
 - Placard your vehicle if transporting a bulk container of more than 119 gallons or more than 1,000 pounds of a pesticide from HMT II or any amount of a pesticide from HMT I, and
 - Obtain a Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) when required.

Pesticide Transportation – Dealer to Storage Exemptions

- Federal Requirements- No Matter What
 - Carry shipping papers in your vehicle, which have an emergency response telephone number,
 - Carry Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for the pesticides in transport,
 - Be sure that packages are properly labeled and/or marked,
- Only If....
 - Receive training concerning DOT HazMat regulatory requirements (Transporting more than 502 gallons of liquid product or 5070 lbs of solid product)
 - Placard your vehicle if transporting a bulk container of more than 119 gallons or more than 1,000 pounds of a pesticide from HMT II or any amount of a pesticide from HMT I,
 - Obtain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) when required.
 - Depends on vehicle

Pesticide Transportation – Field to Field

- Federal Requirements – Farmers Exemption – Field to Field
 - ONLY APPLIES IF YOU ARE TRANSPORTING HM BETWEEN TWO OF YOUR OWN FIELDS
 - If you are a private motorist
 - Transporting Hazardous Material within 150 miles of other field/storage place
 - Not valid on interstate highways! Use backroads.
 - **That includes I-4, I-275, I-75, I-10, I-295 & I-95**
 - Does not apply if you are transporting for someone else for compensation or trade.

Labeling & Markings

- What should be on the box?
 - Any Hazardous Material related images
 - shipping name;
 - identification number;
 - specifications or UN marks;
 - plus other required information, instructions, or cautions.
- Check MSDS for Shipping & Transportation info

Loading Pesticides

- Wear proper PPE in case any container has leaked.
- Check caps and plugs to make sure no leakage has occurred.
 - If container is leaking, do not accept it.
- Remove anything that could accidentally puncture the containers.
- Try to avoid tossing, dropping, or sliding containers.
- Avoid getting cardboard containers wet.
- Always place with the cap/lid facing up and prevent from tipping by tying down the load.

In the event of an accident...

- Notify responding emergency personnel of the type & amount of hazardous material on board the vehicle.
- Call the Emergency number on the shipping papers if necessary.
- Pay close attention if there is a fire, and notify 911 immediately.

Pesticide Storage

Keeping Safe on the Farm

Building & Location

- Large amounts of pesticides need their own building that is designed specifically for that.
- Small/moderate amounts can be stored in its own room or cabinet.
- Flooring should be made of sealed concrete or other non-porous material that is free of cracks.
- Building should be located away from water bodies or any potential source of flooding.
 - At least 100 feet away from drinking water sources.
- Best if downwind from sensitive areas like housing, animals, feed storage, etc.
 - Drift from mixing can cause irritation if upwind.

Storage Conditions

- Temperature
 - Acceptable limits should be available on the label. Generally between 40F-100F
 - Unlikely to freeze in Florida but hot temperatures can weaken plastic, cause formulations to deteriorate & lose effectiveness, or can become pressurized with expanding gas and splash when open.
- Humidity
 - Keep area dry.
 - High humidity can cause issues with dry formulations and can weaken paper/cardboard containers.
 - High humidity can also make labels peel or become unreadable.

Storage Conditions

○ Ventilation

- Building needs constant ventilation to prevent buildup of toxic fumes and reduce humidity.
 - If building isn't used daily, consider installing vents.

○ Light

- Do not store in direct sunlight.
- Can increase heat and potentially break down pesticides.

Basic Safety Guidelines

- Never let anyone eat, drink, or smoke in the storage facility.
- Store pesticides in their original, labeled containers. Never store pesticides in milk jugs, soft drink bottles, fruit jars, or medicine bottles.
- Do not store pesticides with or near food, medicine, cleaning supplies, fertilizers, seed, or animal feed.
- Do not keep gasoline, kerosene, or other combustible materials with the pesticides.
- Make sure pesticides are not kept near operations which present a fire hazard, such as burning and welding.

Basic Safety Guidelines

- Do not leave any pesticide container in full sun or next to a heater.
- Store pesticides on metal shelves with a lip or on wood shelves covered with plastic or chemically-resistant epoxy paint. Leak-proof plastic trays on shelves work well. Do not store pesticides on the floor. Use pallets under large containers/bags.
- Keep the storage area neat and clean at all times.
- Store dry formulations on the highest shelves. Store liquids and glass containers on the lowest level. This will prevent contamination in case a liquid container leaks.

Basic Safety Guidelines

- Place signs indicating “Danger Pesticides – Keep out – No Smoking” on all storage entries.
- Place Emergency Phone numbers in/around storage area.
- Keep up-to-date inventory in the storage area and another location.
- Read the label or MSDS to make sure products can be stored together.

Pesticide Spills

Prevention & Cleanup

The Three “C’s”

- Control the Spill
- Contain the Spill
- Clean up the Spill

Clean up the Spill

- Soak up the Liquid with an absorbent or sawdust.
- Gather into plastic or metal container
- Determine how much volume was spilled, apply to fields according to label rates. IF it cannot be applied, has to be disposed as hazardous or non-hazardous waste depending on the pesticide.

Decontaminate the Spill

- Apply appropriate decontaminant according to the pesticide. Allow appropriate time to work.
 - Chlorine Bleach, Lye, or Lime often used
- Use as label directs.
- Reapply until entire pesticide residue is removed.

Pesticide Container Disposal

What to do when once you've used the product.

Container Disposal

- Paper & Plastic Bags- Empty product completely. Properly emptied bags can be taken to landfill or waste transfer station.
- Plastic Containers- Once entire volume of product is used....Rinse out container with fresh water when making mix containing last of the product. Drain directly into spray tank.
 - Once rinsed, recycle or send to landfill.

Container Rinsing

- The Triple Rinse Method
 - Empty pesticide into spray tank, allow to drain/drip for 10 seconds.
 - Fill the container $\frac{1}{4}$ with water and replace cap.
 - Shake for 10 seconds.
 - Pour rinse water into spray tank and allow container to drip for 10 seconds.
 - Repeat 2 more times.
 - Rinse cap and leave it removed, dispose with trash.
 - Allow container to dry and recycle or dispose.

Always Remember...

- Wear proper PPE for the pesticide you are handling EVERY TIME.
- Report spills if potential for human/environmental damage. If you're not sure, report anyways.
- Dispose of pesticide containers and unwanted pesticide properly.
- Always stay up to date on federal, state, and local laws regarding pesticide storage and handling.

Questions?

For more information visit:

<https://pesticidestewardship.org/national-pesticide-safety-education-month/>

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