

SAFE STORAGE PRACTICES

- Store pesticides in their original containers. This is one of the most frequent pesticide storage violations.
- Keep all opened containers closed/sealed. If a container is not emptied in one use, record the opened date on the container.
- Follow specific chemical separation requirements on the label.
- Separate pesticides by hazard and function. Flammable products should be kept in a fire-proof cabinet. Dry pesticides should be stored separately from liquid pesticides to avoid wetting from spills. Fungicides, insecticides, and herbicides should be stored in separate locations to prevent cross-contamination and misuse.
- Store liquid formulations below dry formulations.
- Store containers off the floor.
- Keep a fire extinguisher and spill control supplies near the storage unit. Supplies should include cat litter, spill pillows, broom, dust pan, neutralizers, plastic bags, gloves, eye protection, and shovels.



- Keep a source of water nearby, preferably an eye wash station and shower, to decontaminate skin, eyes, etc.
- Buy only the amount of pesticides you need for a single season. The less pesticides stored, the less pesticides can spill.
- Keep copies of labels and MSDSs on file at all times.

This brochure was adapted from these sources:

Storage, Mixing and Loading of Pesticides Guidelines, available from the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture Pesticide Bureau

Clemson Extension Pesticide Information Program Information Sheet No. PIP-37, *Store Pesticides Safely*.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Cooperative Extension Publication No. 426-705, *Storing Pesticides Safely*

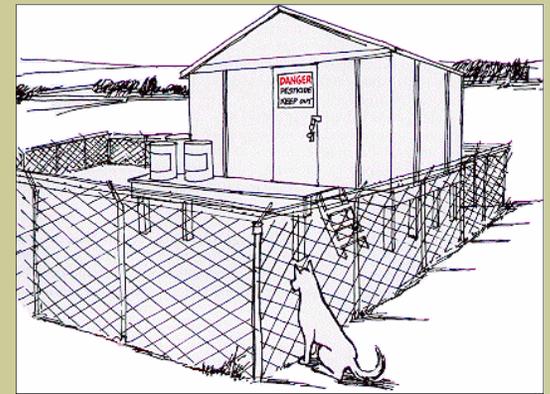


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RECOMMENDED
STORAGE
PRACTICES FOR
PESTICIDE
APPLICATORS



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Storing Pesticides

Proper pesticide storage shows how much you value your employees, environment and well-spent pesticide dollars. The following guidelines refer to most storage pesticide situations. Consult the label on each product you store to verify that your facility complies with the labeled directions. Chapter 20 of the BPC's regulations require that pesticides be stored in a secure enclosure and maintained so as to prevent unauthorized use, mishandling or loss, and to prevent contamination of the environment and risk to public health.

When planning your storage facility, ask yourself these questions:



- How much storage space do I need?
- Where should I locate my facility?
- How should I construct the storage unit?
- What precautions must I take to protect the pesticides?
- What kind of security measures should be in place?
- What precautions must I take to protect ground and surface waters?
- How can I ensure worker safety?

If you already have a storage facility, consider these questions:

- Do you store your pesticides in a detached structure?
- Does your storage building have adequate ventilation?
- Does your storage building have impervious flooring?
- Are the pesticides you store in their original containers?

LOCATION OF THE STORAGE SITE

- No storage site may be constructed in a flood plain.
- Moisture is a common problem with pesticide storage that rusts metal containers, disintegrates paper or cardboard (rendering labels unreadable), contaminates dry formulations, and causes pesticides to spread to other areas of the structure.
- Determine the direction of prevailing air currents and consider what is downwind from your storage site. This may be a factor if a fire or spill should occur.
- Build pesticide storage facilities at least 100 feet from wells, surface water, food or feed storage, dwellings, schools, day cares, animal feeding stations, and other sensitive areas.

PHYSICAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE STORAGE UNIT

- Position your unit far enough away from other structures so as to prevent undue harm in case either structure should burn.
- Use impervious flooring such as sealed concrete or epoxy-coated metal with a berm around the outside to contain spills.
- Include a washwater and spill collection system.
- Provide electrical power to the storage facility. This



Unsatisfactory pesticide storage near a pump shed

Unsafe pesticide storage is harmful to you, your workers, and the environment.

allows for interior lighting, exhaust fan and heater, as well as exterior security lighting.

- Have good interior lighting. This allows you to read labeling, note leaks or damaged containers, clean up spills, and record inventory easily.

STORAGE ENVIRONMENT

- Keep the storage unit dry. Keep outside doors closed and locked when not in use.
- Keep the unit well ventilated by passive ventilation, mechanical ventilation, or a combination of both (the BPC suggests using mechanical ventilation) whenever a worker must enter the area.
- Keep pesticides from freezing or extreme high temperatures by installing a heating/cooling system. Most pesticides need to be kept between 40° and 90° F.
- Place opened pesticide containers in clear plastic bags or see-through plastic ware. This allows for easy identification of products while containing leaks and helping to avoid accidental spills.

STORAGE SECURITY

- Control entry to the storage unit to prevent unauthorized access to pesticides.
- Store pesticides in a separate location, preferably a locked storage building, whenever possible.
- Always lock pesticide storage cabinets, closets, rooms and buildings
- Provide access through a separate, outside door if you must have storage within a larger structure,
- Post signs on the door, building or fence that identify pesticide storage areas and tell people to stay out. These signs should include the number of the local fire department, Poison Center (1-800-442-6305), and a number to contact the storage owner/manager.
- Post No Smoking signs and prohibit smoking near the pesticide storage area.

