PESTICIDE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

PESTICIDE STORAGE

Unsafe pesticide storage can lead to serious accidents. Pesticide storage areas should be clean,



cool, dry, well-ventilated, and well-lighted. The temperature should not go above 90°F, and should stay above the minimum temperature required for the pesticides stored (see Winter Storage of Pesticides, Table 11). The floor should be a nonabsorbent material.

Mark the purchase date on each container. Store pesticides tightly closed in their original containers, placed so that

unauthorized persons, children and animals cannot accidentally come in contact with them. Post emergency telephone numbers on the premises (Poison Control Center, Ambulance, National Pesticide Telecommunication Network, etc. from the back cover).

Keep the storage area locked at all times. Be sure that "POISON STORAGE — KEEP OUT" is permanently marked on all exterior sides in letters big enough to be read at 20 feet. Post a list of the stored chemicals on the outside of the storage area. Give a copy of this list, any known special hazards, and the name, address and telephone number of a contact person to your local fire and police departments. People and livestock in the vicinity of a pesticide fire may have to be evacuated. To obtain a Pre-fire Planning Guide, contact: NACA, Madison Building, 1155 15th Street NW, Washington, DC 20005.

Keep a copy of the label and Material Safety Data Sheet for each stored pesticide in a separate location. Read these ahead of time to help you determine the necessary pesticide storage and handling procedures.

WINTER PESTICIDE STORAGE

The information given in Table 11 is for general planning only. Read labels to find special storage considerations for each product. Store herbicides separately from other pesticides to avoid contamination.

In general, liquid formulations are more susceptible to freezing damage than dry formulations.

Formulation	General Signs of Deterioration
EC	Separation of components, such as sludge or sediment Milky appearance does not occur when water is added
Oil	Milky appearance does not occur when water is added
SP, WP, WS WG, WDG	Excessive lumping, powders do not suspend in water
D, G	Excessive lumping or caking

PESTICIDE DISPOSAL

Proper disposal of pesticides and pesticide containers is an important phase of pest management. An improperly disposed product can be hazardous to people and the environment. Rinse a liquid pesticide container three times (or use an equivalent method) when it is emptied. Fill the container about 1/3 full and swish the diluent around the container. Allow the container to drain well between each rinse (30 or more seconds). Pour the rinse material into the spray tank. Triple-rinsed containers are considered nonhazardous and should be disposed of by following state recommendations. Before throwing out containers that held powders or granular pesticides, be sure that all material has been removed from the containers.

Never leave hazardous material and equipment unattended because it may attract children. Many states have "attractive nuisance" laws; you may be liable for damages.

Never reuse an empty pesticide container. If an empty, triple-rinsed container cannot be disposed of immediately, store it in a safe, locked area. For current state regulations on pesticide disposal, consult your state's pesticide regulatory agency or Extension.

Plan ahead in preparing spray mixtures! Mix only the amount of pesticide you need to do the job. Clean equipment immediately after use. Be sure that rinse water will not collect or contaminate groundwater or the environment. The equipment and clean-up area should not be accessible to children, animals or unauthorized persons.