



MAFES Dawg Tracks

July 16, 2012



*Safe Pesticide
Storage and Disposal*



Improper pesticide storage and disposal can be dangerous to your health and that of your fellow employees as well. Following are some tips or recommendations that, if practiced, can lower the risk or potential of an injury from poor practices of storage and disposal of pesticides:

- ✓ **Don't Stockpile-**
Buy only what you need to carry you through the season. Besides space requirements, they will lose some of their effectiveness over time periods.
- ✓ **Look into solutions to your pest problems that call for less - or no pesticide use.**
It might be possible to consider the possibilities of an "Integrated Pest Management" program that combines different pest control tactics, like chemical, biological, and cultural to give you the best results with less disruption to the environment. IPM programs focus on preventing pest problems so you don't need to use pesticides.
- ✓ **Follow all storage instructions-**
Check the pesticide labels for the proper storage instructions.
- ✓ **Always store pesticides in their original containers-**
The label gives you a lot of needed information like the ingredients, directions for use, first aid instructions in case of accidental poisoning. Never transfer pesticides to other types of containers where you can lose the identity and care instructions. You lose accountability of its intended use.
- ✓ **Transparent tape can be used to cover the original label to preserve its legibility-**
If you get into a situation of not being able to identify the age or contents of the container, follow the advice of safe disposal further on down in this article.
- ✓ **Store pesticides out of reach of children and pets-**
Although children and pets aren't a part of our research support farms, a reminder about them is in order as we all use some pesticides at home. In all of our stations, we have limited entry storage areas, if we keep them secure when various pesticides are being withdrawn from the inventory.

Restricted chemicals should have extra security, like a chemical cabinet or a restricted area within the pesticide storage area that can be locked.

- ✓ **"Child-resistant" packaging does not mean "child-proof."** This tip will serve us well at home. Store the pesticides properly with containers tightly closed and out of the reach of children.
- ✓ **Store flammable liquids outside your living area.**
Also they should be stored away from ignition sources like furnaces, gas grills, vehicles, or gas-powered tools. Refrain from storing them in places where they could leak into water sources such as wells, creeks and streams.

SAFE DISPOSAL-

- ✓ **The best way to dispose of small amounts of excess pesticide is to use it.** Apply according to the instructions on the label, and if this doesn't finish it, try to see if a neighbor can use it.
- ✓ **Do not throw unused pesticides in the trash.**
If you or a neighbor can't use the pesticide, check with the county or city waste management for the date of an "amnesty day" for collection of hazardous wastes or to the county commissioner for advice on local means for disposing.
- ✓ **Never pour any leftover pesticide products down the sink, into the toilet, down a sewer or street drain or on the ground.** Some municipal waste systems aren't equipped to remove pesticide residues from wastewater. Obviously, if wastewater reaches the streams and rivers, it can harm fish, plants and other living things.
- ✓ **Rinse empty containers three times carefully.** As you rinse the container, pour the rinsate into the mixing container or sprayer and use it as a spray according to the instructions on the label. Once you have followed these steps, dispose of the container according to the label or to state and local laws.
Do not puncture or burn an aerosol container. It could explode.
Do not reuse pesticide containers.

**THE INTENTION OF SAFETY
IS ACCIDENT PREVENTION!
BE SAFE~~NOT SORRY!!!**

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Excerpts:www.cdpr.ca.gov
4/24/2012