



Amenity Forum Guidance Document

Best Practice Note for Disposal of Waste Products/Washings

The key is to *minimise the quantity of waste you produce*. Small quantities of bottle and tank washings are easily disposed of by applying the washings to areas already treated. Large quantities of waste pesticide are costly to dispose of.

You must dispose of all pesticide waste safely and legally to protect humans, wildlife and the environment, especially groundwater and surface water.

Reducing Waste

If you reduce your use of pesticides you will also reduce the amount of waste pesticide you produce, so always fully consider integrated pest management (IPM) alternatives.

Most actives are available in clean package formulations such as soluble bags. Although more expensive, these formulations reduce the quantity of washings produced.

Buy products in the largest practical container sizes.

In-line injection systems eliminate leftover tank mixtures. With these systems, the pesticide and water are kept in separate tanks. A separate metering pump feeds the pesticide into the spray line. Any excess water is left in the water tank and excess pesticide remains in the pesticide tank.

If you need to mix your pesticides, always calibrate your equipment and calculate the exact quantity of mixture required to complete the job. With proper calibration you will be left with a minimal quantity of unwanted waste pesticide mixture.

When treating several sites using the same pesticide and the same equipment, you should always consider using the left over pesticide mixture from one site to treat another. Most pesticides can remain in a mixture for a reasonable period of time without effecting efficacy.

Always keep an eye on the weather. Mixing up a large quantity of more sensitive pesticides ahead of a change in the weather could leave you with a considerable quantity of unwanted, ineffective waste pesticide mixture.

There are novel and innovative pesticide application systems designed to reduce waste being developed all the time. Keep up to date with new ideas through the Amenity Forum or the specialist press.

Disposal of Washings

You have followed best practice but will inevitably end up with a small quantity of washings that you need to dispose of. Possible options for disposing of dilute pesticide waste include the following:

- You can apply the contaminated water to the treated or untreated area within the terms of the product approval. (But make sure you do not go over the maximum dose.) Remember to round down your calculations of the amount of pesticide needed when filling your sprayer to allow you to dispose of the washings on an under-dosed area.
- You can store the contaminated water in a suitable container until a licensed waste-disposal contractor can collect it.

Disposal of Unwanted Concentrate

Despite good management you may have some concentrate pesticide that you need to dispose of. You should consider the following points:

- Ask your supplier if they will take back any unwanted pesticides.
- Pesticide concentrates are likely to be 'hazardous waste' and may present a significant risk to the environment or to humans. Handling and disposing of this type of waste is tightly controlled and you will need to use a registered carrier and a licensed waste-disposal contractor.

Disposal of Waste Pesticide Containers

You should not reuse an empty pesticide container unless it is specifically designed to be returned and refilled and you are doing so in line with the label instructions; or you are filling it with an identical pesticide product.

Before disposing of a non-returnable container, make sure it is completely empty. Before rinsing, read the product label and always rinse in line with the label instructions.

If there are no instructions, you should:

- Use purpose-made container-rinsing equipment in line with the manufacturer's instructions (for example, pressure rinsing devices forming part of many sprayer induction bowls); or
- Rinse containers by hand at least three times (or until the container is visibly clean) with clean water.

Firmly replace caps on containers immediately after rinsing and draining them into the equipment used for applying pesticide. Put the rinsed foil seal inside the container. Store the rinsed and drained containers upright in a secure, weather-proof area away from stored pesticides until you can dispose of them.

You can dispose of rinsed pesticide containers in the following ways:

- Pass them on to a licensed waste-disposal contractor;
- Take them to a licensed waste-disposal or waste-recovery site, after checking whether the site will accept rinsed containers;
- Burn them only in an incinerator licensed by your local authority or the Environment Agency.

Containers which are not suitable for rinsing (for example, paper sacks and cardboard cartons) and those containing products which are either ready-to-use or not applied as a solution, are normally emptied completely but not rinsed. You should handle and store these empty containers as if they still contained the pesticide, and you should dispose of them through a licensed waste-disposal contractor.

Disposal of Other Pesticide Waste

You should arrange to dispose of contaminated packaging, equipment, unwanted protective clothing and waste from dealing with spills and leaks through a licensed waste-disposal contractor.

You should dispose of used vertebrate control agents, other pesticide baits and dead bodies in line with the guidance on the product label. If no advice is given on the label, arrange to dispose of this waste through a licensed waste-disposal contractor.

You should dispose of used compost, soil and so on which have been treated with pesticides in line with the guidance on the product label. If no advice is given on the label, get guidance from your local Environment Agency office.