



Amenity Forum
Guidance Note

**Disposal of
Waste Products
and Washings**



Introduction

To make disposal of waste easier the key is to minimise the quantity of waste you produce, and this involves planning ahead. Small quantities of excess spray solutions, washings from empty cans and tank washings are easily disposed of by applying these to the areas already treated. Large quantities of waste pesticide are costly to dispose of via suitable waste contractors.

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

You can find all the relevant/legal information under section 5 of the “Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products”.

Link – [Complete20code](#)

Reducing Waste

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

When planning your product requirements consider the following:

- Pack size
- Formulation concentration
- Formulation type
- Packaging both plastic and cardboard
- Dose rate

For regular users buy products in the optimum size or irregular users try to optimise volume purchased to area requiring treatment.

Prior to any application always calibrate your equipment and calculate the exact quantity of PPP required to complete the job. With accurate calibration you will be left with a minimal quantity of unwanted diluted spray.

When treating several sites using the same pesticide and the same equipment, you can consider using the left-over spray solution from one site to treat another. Most PPPs remain stable for a reasonable period of time once diluted with water without effecting efficacy.

Always keep an eye on the weather. Mixing up a large quantity of spray ahead of a change in the weather could leave you with a considerable quantity of unwanted, ineffective waste spray solution. 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

When following best practice, you 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 use the washings to make up the next spray tank if using the same sprays.
- Apply the contaminated water to the treated or an untreated area within the terms of the product label. Make sure you do not go over the maximum individual dose.)
- Remember to round down your calculations of the amount of PPP needed when filling your sprayer to allow you to dispose of the washings on an under-dosed area.

- If you are unable to do the above, you can store the contaminated water in a suitably labelled container and use this in your next spray of the same product or you can store and call in a licensed waste-disposal contractor to collect it.

Disposal of Unwanted Concentrate

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

- Ask your supplier if they will take back any unwanted PPP.
- PPP concentrates are always treated as 'hazardous waste' even if they are not classified as Hazardous. They 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.
- The most sustainable solution is to find a suitable place to use the product as per label recommendations.

Disposal of Waste Pesticide Containers

You must not reuse an empty PPP container unless it is specifically designed to be returned and refilled.

Before disposing of a non-returnable container, make sure they have been triple rinsed and all contents have been disposed of as above. Rinsing instructions will be included on the label.

Containers should be triple rinsed as soon as possible after emptying.

Rinse containers by hand at least three times with clean water. Make sure all washings are collected and used as per above

Firmly replace caps on containers immediately after rinsing shake vigorously and then drain them into the equipment used for applying pesticide. Put clean or rinsed foil seals in a suitably sealed container. Store the rinsed and drained containers upright in a secure, weather-proof area away from stored pesticides until you can dispose of them. Many waste contractors and distributors offer a waste packaging disposal package which includes detailed instructions and a suitable storage bin for rinsed containers.

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

- Pass them on to a licensed waste-disposal contractor to find contractor click link .Gov webpages [here](#).
- Check, with the waste disposal contractor, whether pesticide packaging must be segregated into different materials (paper, plastics, metal, foil seals, etc.). Where available choose packs without seals; otherwise rinse the seals and avoid them blowing away. Either fully detach and place them in a leak-proof container or leave them partially attached.
- Take them to a licensed waste-disposal or waste-recovery site, check prior to taking waste containers whether the site will accept rinsed PPP containers;

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

Dispose of contaminated packaging, equipment, unwanted or contaminated protective clothing and waste from dealing with spills and leaks disposal should be arranged 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.

Rules in Scotland are similar details are available from your local SEPA office.