

Waste Pesticide Management

How to dispose of unusable or unwanted pesticide spray solutions, pesticide contaminated rinsewaters and pesticide-containing absorbent

Environmentally sound management of pesticide waste and empty pesticide containers is in everyone's best interest. Accidental release or indiscriminate discharge of pesticide waste into the environment can harm people and contaminate surface and groundwater. Pesticide contaminated water poses a hazard to non-target organisms such as plants, beneficial insects, fish and other aquatic life.

This fact sheet is produced for people who use pesticides in industrial processes, crop and livestock production, and forest management and describes how to dispose of excess pesticide spray solutions, pesticide-contaminated rinsewaters and pesticide-containing absorbent. This fact sheet does not cover how to dispose of unused pesticide products. For that information, refer to "How to manage banned, canceled and unwanted and unused pesticide products and spills of these materials."

What is pesticide waste?

Pesticide wastes is any substance or material containing pesticide that can not or will not be used and will be discarded and disposed of. By definition, pesticide wastes are "hazardous wastes" in Oregon. Pesticide wastes include, but are not limited to:

- Surplus spray solution, ultra-low volume (ULV) spray concentrate, dusts, granules, or baits remaining in the application equipment (such as tanks, hoppers, booms, hoses) after use.
- Pesticide-contaminated water produced by cleaning the interior surfaces of the pesticide application equipment or from rinsing empty pesticide containers.
- Pesticide-contaminated absorbent, water, or other materials generated from cleaning up spilled spray solutions.
- Empty, contaminated (unrinsed) pesticide containers.

Note: Spills of all pesticides, including pesticide wastes, must be reported to the Oregon Emergency Management Division (1-800-452-0311) and must be cleaned up according to Oregon revised regulation 340-142-0060.

What is not a pesticide waste?

Any pesticide-containing material that is used or reused according to label instructions for its intended purpose is not considered a pesticide waste. In addition, pesticide wastes do not include pesticide-containing materials when pesticides were applied according to label instructions. For example, treated soil, foodstuff, water, vegetation, and treated seeds are not pesticide waste when disposed of.

Pesticide wastes are hazardous waste.

Pesticide-containing materials that cannot or will not be reused (i.e., pesticide wastes), and must be disposed are "hazardous wastes" and are designated "pesticide residue" generated from two sources:

- The point of application (in the field and essentially limited to agriculture and silviculture); and
- Permanent bases of operation (i.e., places where equipment is stored, such as an airfield or pesticide dealership).

How pesticide waste is managed for disposal varies depending on the point of generation of waste.

Disposing of pesticide wastes produced at the point of application (in the field) in agricultural and silvicultural operations

1. Wash the exterior of application equipment at the site where the equipment is used, or on your own property (occasionally moving the wash site); and in such a way that wastewater will not enter groundwater, surface water, wells, storm drains, drainage ditches, streams, creeks, lakes, or rivers.
2. Dispose of small quantities (less than one gallon or 10 pounds) of biodegradable pesticide wastes (except surplus pesticide product or formulations) such as surplus spray solutions, dusts, granules, baits; or any quantity of pesticide equipment wash water on the application site owner's non-cropped or fallow land, along fence rows or on forested land -- **but only if:**
 - Such management is not prohibited by the pesticide label instructions; federal hazardous



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waste regulations, or other federal or state regulation; and

- The farmer-applicator or pesticide waste generator legally owns or controls the land, or receives permission from the owner or manager of the land; and
- The soil does not become saturated; and
- The residues do not enter groundwater, surface water, lakes, rivers, streams, wells, drainage ditches, or storm drains; and
- The application will not result in illegal residues or unwanted effects on subsequent agricultural or silvicultural crops; and
- The residues will not pose a hazard to humans, pets, domestic animals, wildlife, or threatened or endangered species.
- The landowner or manager must alternate the pesticide wastes management areas each year and lightly cultivate the soil in the treated area to speed up the breakdown of the residues

For assistance in determining acceptable waste pesticide management practices, contact the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Extension Pesticide Coordinator at Oregon State University (OSU), or your local county extension agent.

Disposing of pesticides produced at a permanent base of operation

What is a permanent base of operation?

A permanent base of operation is the specific location where pesticide application and mixing equipment is stored. This includes, but is not limited to, those facilities at an airfield, either public or private, pesticide dealership, industrial process application; park; residential or industrial pest control operation; county weed and right of way control operations; and seed and foodstuff treatment operation.

Pesticide waste disposal options.

When pesticide-containing material cannot be used or reused for its intended purpose according to label instructions, it becomes pesticide waste. Two on-site management options are available and two off-site disposal options are available for these wastes.

1. Manage the pesticide waste prior to disposal according to the universal waste management standards.
2. Manage the waste prior to disposal according to the "hazardous waste" management standards.

Option Number 1 – Manage the pesticide waste prior to disposal according to the universal waste management standards

Managing pesticide waste according to the universal waste management standards has many benefits:

- Waste is not counted toward generator category,
- No reporting or fees are required, and

- No hazardous waste manifest is required to transport the waste.

To manage the pesticide waste according to the universal waste management standards you must:

Contain the waste,

- Label the waste container with the words "Waste Pesticide",
- Store the waste for no more than one year, and
- Transport the waste pesticide to a pesticide collection event or a facility authorized to collect universal waste pesticides.

Final disposal of the pesticide waste must be at a:

- Permitted hazardous waste facility, or
- Permitted solid waste facility provided that the waste meets land disposal concentrations-based standards are met for pesticide active ingredients or, if no standards exist, the pesticide waste passes the DEQ aquatic toxicity test.

Note: All the criteria above must be met or the pesticide waste is by definition a hazardous waste.

For more information on managing waste pesticide according to the universal waste management requirements please refer to the "managing waste pesticide" fact sheet at www.deq.state.or.us/lq/hw/pesticide.htm

Option Number 2 – Manage the pesticide waste prior to disposal according to the hazardous waste management standards

Note: The regulatory requirements that apply to you depend upon the amount of hazardous waste you generate each month. If you generate more than 220 pounds in a month of hazardous waste per calendar month, you are subject to stricter management requirements. If you are unclear to what your generator category is, please call DEQ for information on what management requirements apply.

To manage the pesticide waste as a hazardous waste if more than 220 pounds of hazardous waste is generated in a calendar month you must:

- Label and mark the container with the date the wastes were created and the words "**HAZARDOUS WASTE**",
- Store the wastes no longer than 90 or 180 days, depending on generator category.
- Ship the pesticide waste as hazardous wastes using a hazardous waste transporter to a hazardous disposal facility. A hazardous waste manifest must be used,
- Report to the DEQ about the hazardous waste that is generated, and
- Pay DEQ hazardous waste generator fees.

Where Can I find more information for managing pesticide wastes?

Visit the DEQ pesticide waste management web page at www.deq.state.or.us/lq/hw/pesticide.htm for more information.

In addition, refer to Title 40 of the Code of Federal regulations (CFR) Part 260 to 268 for hazardous waste management requirements, and Part 273 for requirements for managing pesticides wastes as universal waste.

For additional information, please contact:

DEQ Technical Assistance

For information about DEQ technical assistance, visit:
www.deq.state.or.us/lq/hw/technicalassistance.htm

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Alternative formats

Alternative formats (Braille, large type) of this document can be made available. Contact DEQ's Office of Communications & Outreach, Portland, at (503) 229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696.