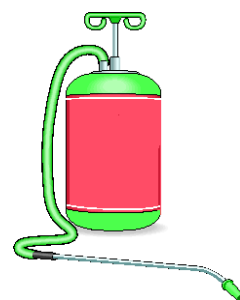


Simple & Safe Pesticide Storage

All of us do things in our homes and on our farms every day that can possibly pollute groundwater. Nobody wants this to happen, but if we are not careful and educated about how we manage our day-to-day home and farmstead activities, we can end up polluting the groundwater that serves as drinking water for many families. Here are some simple and *safe* tips for storing pesticides and other farm chemicals.

- Buy only what you need! Buying extra chemicals is expensive, and causes storage problems.
- **NEVER** store chemicals with food, feed, seeds, potable water, or protective equipment.
- **Keep Chemicals in Original Containers with Lids Tightly Closed and Labels Intact!**
- Store chemicals in an area with an impermeable floor such as concrete.
- Store all types of pesticides together in one area or on one shelf and store all types of fertilizers together in a different area or shelf. Keeping herbicides separate from insecticides and insecticides separate from fungicides can help prevent you from picking up the wrong chemical when you are in a hurry! Store liquid chemicals separately from dry chemicals.
- Inexpensive plastic tubs or trays can be used for secondary containment on storage shelves.
- Write the purchase date on the container and use the older chemical first.
- Inspect containers for damage or leaks. If original containers are damaged, move contents to different packaging. **Remember to Keep the Original Label with New Packaging!**
- Do not store chemicals on window ledges. Sunlight & heat will shorten the life span of chemicals.
- Post all facilities with chemical storage signs and no smoking signs. The storage area should be well-ventilated and kept at a moderate temperature.
- Mount a chemical approved fire extinguisher in an accessible location.

- Steel shelves offer the strongest, most effective stacking system. The shelf edge should have a lip to catch minor leaks and spills.
- Wood shelves should be strong enough to avoid buckling under heavy loads. Painting wooden shelves prevents spills and leaks from being absorbed into the shelving.
- When storing chemicals on shelves, place liquid chemicals on the bottom shelves below dry chemicals. If leaks or spills occur, it will drip down onto floor instead of onto dry chemicals.
- To prevent backflow while filling the spray tank, never place a hose into the spray tank below the water line.
- If possible, carry an auxiliary fresh water tank to wash sprayers in the field.
- Unwanted pesticides can be removed from your farm through the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's ***Unwanted Pesticide Collection & Disposal*** program. Call 1-800-205-6543 for more information.
- Dispose of empty containers through the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's ***Rinse & Return container recycling*** program. Contact your County Extension Office for details about the program in your area.
- Triple-rinse or pressure rinse empty containers and add rinsate to tank or reserve tank. Do not allow residues to dry inside the container. Proper rinsing is very important before participating in the ***Rinse & Return*** recycling program.
- Be prepared for accidents with a spill kit that is readily available for emergency clean up. This includes absorbent material to contain a spill, and cleanup equipment such as shovels, brooms, dustpans, squeegees, and plastic sheeting.
- Call the Environmental Response Team 1-800-928-2380 to report a chemical spill (Ky Department for Environmental Protection).
- **Always Read and Follow the Label Directions!!!**
- **Lock up Your Chemicals!** One of every four pesticide related deaths involve children who are accidentally poisoned. Also, some pesticides are expensive and theft of chemicals may be a concern.



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