

FACT SHEET

# Pesticide Surplus and Safe Disposal

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**People who apply pesticides must be careful to avoid surplus, reduce waste, and dispose of empty containers legally.**

## AVOIDING SURPLUS

At times, pesticide surplus is inevitable. Pesticide retailers may discontinue registration, or ingredients may lose their effectiveness over time. For these reasons, applicators should never stockpile materials. Instead, keep thorough records and plan well ahead of application. Unopened containers of pesticides with factory seals can be returned to manufacturers, donated to another applicator, or given to cooperative extensions.

## REDUCING PESTICIDE WASTE

Pesticide waste is generated when pesticides reach expiration, when the government discontinues or bans an active ingredient, when pests build resistance, or when newer chemicals outperform older varieties. Applicators can reduce the number of conventional pesticide containers by purchasing pesticides in water-soluble packaging, and refillable bulk containers.

## EMPTY PESTICIDE CONTAINERS

Pesticide containers are never truly empty, because trace amounts of toxins remain. While still using specified protective equipment, rinse them three times. Then:

1. Pour the excess mixture into the sprayer;
2. Fill  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the container with water;
3. Replace the cap and agitate for 30 seconds;
4. Pour rinsate into the sprayer;
5. Repeat this procedure two more times;
6. Puncture the container to prevent reuse;
7. Flatten the container and dispose of in a licensed pesticide disposal site.

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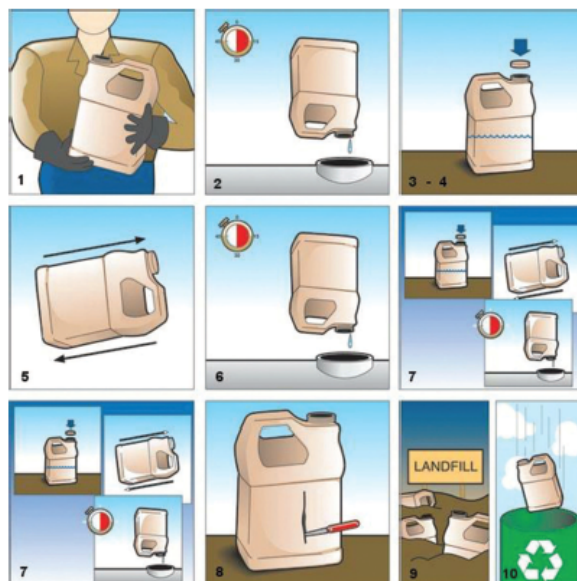
## TIPS FOR SAFE PESTICIDE DISPOSAL

If you have pesticides that are unfit for use, you must dispose of them safely and legally. Since illegal pesticide disposal may lead to groundwater contamination, you should never bury or burn containers in your yard (Johnson, 2017). Triple-rinsed containers should be taken to an incinerator or an approved hazardous disposal site. The chart below lists local pesticide disposal sites:

Facility	Location
Fort Totten Transfer Station	4900 John F. McCormack Drive, NE, Washington, DC 20011
Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill	11611 White House Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Secure Waste, Inc	1 Research Ct #450, Rockville, MD 20850
Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Recycling Center	3224 Colvin St, Alexandria, VA 22314
Arlington County Solid Waste	4300 29th St S, Arlington, VA 22206

## TRIPLE-RINSING

Triple-rinsing means rinsing the container three times. This method can be used with all plastic containers. Federal regulations require the rinsing of liquid pesticide containers. Delayed rinsing of used pesticide containers means more difficulty removing product from the containers. More difficulty means more time is required, and time is money. Removing pesticide product from containers that were not rinsed immediately may also require additional cleaning agents. These added chemicals are costly and some may even cause injury if applied to the target site.



## REFERENCES

Johnson, R. H. (2017, September 8). What You Need to Know about Disposing of a Pesticide. Retrieved from <https://extension.psu.edu/what-you-need-to-know-about-disposing-of-a-pesticide>

Ogg, C. L., Puckett, G. J., & Hygnstrom, J. R. (2007). Rinsing Pesticide Containers (G1736). Retrieved from University of Nebraska–Lincoln website: <http://extension.unl.edu/publications>

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