

# PESTICIDE SAFETY



Information

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

A No. 2

## Storing, Moving, and Disposing of Pesticides on Farms

**Pesticides are poisonous and must be stored or disposed of with caution and concern for others, particularly children.** Every year children are poisoned from eating or drinking pesticides that someone did not put away or throw out correctly. If you follow the directions in this leaflet, you can help prevent accidents with pesticides.



### MOST IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Keep pesticides in their original containers.
- Never put pesticides in containers used for food, drink, or household products.
- DO NOT take home any pesticide used at work.

### STORAGE

No job is finished until the pesticides, containers, and equipment have been put away properly. Always remember to store all of your materials safely before you clean up and go home, or move on to the next job. While you are cleaning up and putting away the pesticides, containers, and equipment, you must wear all the personal protective equipment you used on the job. Consider wearing gloves and other protective equipment, even if they weren't required on the label. Spills and accidents often occur as pesticides are being put away.

### How should pesticides be stored?

Pesticides and their empty containers must be kept either in a locked area, or under the control of a person who can keep others away. If the pesticides are not locked up, the person in control of the pesticides must be able to see the pesticides at all times to keep others away.

The label will tell you the right way to store the pesticide. Read and follow these directions. If you have to store pesticides in the same place as fertilizers, keep them apart. Pesticides and fertilizers can react with each other and start a fire.

Do not store pesticides near food, animal feed, or personal protective equipment. They can become contaminated with pesticide, and make people or animals sick.

Here are some acceptable ways to store pesticides:

- A locked, fenced area.
- A lockable storage compartment.
- A truck or trailer with locked side racks. (The tops of the racks should be at least six feet above the ground).

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## MOVING PESTICIDES SAFELY

Accidents can happen even when you are moving pesticides a short distance. If there is an accident, the pesticide can make you and maybe others sick, or contaminate the environment.

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## What do I need to know about moving pesticides?

### FOLLOW THESE RULES:

- Never carry pesticides inside your car, car trunk, van, or truck cab. Dangerous fumes may be released. Pesticides can cause injury or death if they spill on you or your passengers. Spills on seat covers are very hard to get out. The pesticide may make people sick days or weeks later if it is not cleaned up properly.
- Close containers lids tightly.
- Vehicles make turns, sudden starts, and stops. Secure pesticide containers in an upright position to prevent spills.
- Make sure all the pesticide containers have a label.
- If the pesticide has been put in another container, you must label this container. The label has to have the **name** of the pesticide, its **signal word** (Danger, Warning, Caution), and the **name and address of the person responsible** for the container and the pesticide.
- Never let your vehicle out of your sight when you are moving pesticides in an open bed truck. You are responsible if anyone is poisoned by unattended pesticides.

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## How do I rinse the containers?

Containers must be rinsed as soon as they are emptied. If you are using a closed mix/load system, the equipment will do the rinsing. Otherwise you can use one of these methods.



## METHOD #1

1. Wear all the required personal protective equipment (PPE).
2. Fill the pesticide container about 1/4 full with water.
3. Close it tightly and shake it.
4. Pour all of this rinse water into the mix tank so it will be applied with the pesticide.
5. Repeat steps 2, 3 and 4 at least two more times.

## METHOD #2 (for equipment with a rinsing unit)

1. Wear all the required PPE.
2. Put the opening of the container over the nozzle of the machine so the liquid will drain into the tank.
3. Turn the nozzle on and rinse until clean.

## What do I do with empty pesticide containers?

Pesticide containers are never “empty.” They still have small amounts of pesticide in them, even after they have been rinsed out. Never toss containers into streams, ponds, fields, or vacant buildings. Keep track of every pesticide container you used for the job. Never allow children or other persons to come in contact with empty containers, or use them for anything else. You must rinse and empty out pesticide containers properly. Empty containers must be disposed of the right way.

Ask your employer about how to dispose of containers. The county agricultural commissioner can also tell you how to dispose of empty containers, including pesticide bags. Lock up all empty bags and containers until they are disposed of.

## Are there other rules?

Depending on the pesticide, there may be additional rules. If you are moving a pesticide, you must receive training about all the rules. You and/or your employer should call the California Highway Patrol, Motor Carrier Safety Unit, if you are moving more pesticides than you will use in a few days. The Highway Patrol telephone number can be found in the Government Pages of your telephone book. You can also ask the County Agricultural Commissioner’s office for the number.



If you don't get all the information you need in your training, you should call your County Agricultural Commissioner, or the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) for more information. You can find the Commissioner's number in your local white pages phone directory, by calling 1-87PestLine, or at:

<http://www.cdpa.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap/>

DPR's Regional Offices are:

- Northern (West Sacramento) 916/376-8960
- Central (Clovis) 559/297-3511
- Southern (Anaheim) 714/279-7690

**Pesticide Complaint?**

**1-87PestLine**  
INFORMATION LINE

**1-877-378-5463**

