

# Pesticide Safety Information

CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
PESTICIDE REGULATION  
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## Storing, Moving and Disposing of Pesticides on Farms

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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If you follow the directions in this leaflet, you can help prevent accidents with pesticides. Since pesticides are poisonous, they 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.



### THESE ARE THE THREE 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 really finished until the pesticides, containers, and equipment have been put away properly. Get into the habit of storing 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 should 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 while 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 and are next to a road or an area where there are other people, the person in charge of the pesticides must be able to see the pesticides at all times.

### Here are some acceptable ways to store pesticides

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



**Never  
put pesticides  
in containers  
used for food,  
drink, or  
household  
products.**

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.

### **MOVING PESTICIDES SAFELY**

Accidents can happen even when you are moving pesticides a short distance. If there is a problem, it can make you or others sick, or contaminate the environment.

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

#### **Follow these rules**

- Never carry pesticides inside your car, car trunk, van, or truck cab. Pesticides can cause injury or death if they spill on you or your passengers. Dangerous fumes may be released. 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 tightly.
- Vehicles make turns, and sudden starts and stops. To prevent spills, make sure the pesticides are secured in an upright position.
- 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 children or adults are accidentally poisoned by unattended pesticides.

### **What do I do with empty pesticide containers?**

Empty pesticide containers are not really “empty.” They still have small amounts of pesticide – even after they have been rinsed out. Never toss them into streams, ponds, fields, or vacant buildings. Be sure to keep track of every pesticide container you used for the job. Never allow children to play with them, or allow other persons to use them for anything else. You must rinse the empty containers properly. Then they must be disposed of the right way. Ask your foreman about how to dispose of containers. Your county agricultural commissioner can tell you how to dispose of empty pesticide **bags**. All empty bags and containers must be kept locked up until they are disposed of.

### **How do I rinse the containers?**

Most containers must be rinsed as soon as they are emptied. If you are using a closed mix/load system, the machine 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.
5. Repeat steps 2, 3 and 4 at least two more times.

#### **Method #2**

##### **(for equipment that has 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.



If you don't get all the information you need in your training, or from your foreman, 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. DPR numbers are:

- Anaheim (714) 279-7690
- Fresno (559) 445-5401
- Sacramento (916) 324-4100

### **ARE THERE OTHER RULES?**

There may be, depending on the pesticide. If you are moving the pesticide, you must receive training about all the rules. You 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.