



PURDUE PESTICIDE PROGRAMS

Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service

PESTICIDES AND THEIR PROPER STORAGE

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Introduction

A major component of overall good management practices is the safe storage of pesticides. Whether maintaining small amounts of pesticides in a locked cabinet or large inventories at highly sophisticated sites dedicated solely to chemical storage, the key is to limit the probability of accidental human or environmental exposure. Careful attention to your pesticide storage area will decrease the potential for accidental spills, environmental contamination, and economic loss.

The cabinet, area, or building designated for pesticide storage should be well-planned and maintained. It should remain locked to all persons, especially children. Only those individuals who perform an active role in the pesticide application process should have access to the storage site, and they should make a conscious effort to re-lock the facility upon departure.

A well-planned storage unit should contain barriers to prevent accidental leaks or spills from becoming a source of contamination to ground and surface water, soil, or wildlife habitats. From a different perspective, the pesticide storage facility is protection against economic loss—a safeguard for your chemical and property investment! Astute inventory awareness may prevent over-purchase, prolonged storage of old or out-of-date pesticides, or the need to dispose of cancelled materials. And, finally, a properly maintained storage site can be implemental in assuring the smooth transfer of property titles.

Protect yourself, your family, your home, your property—and the environment. Store pesticides wisely.

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Pesticide Storage Checklist

Safety is the key element in proper pesticide storage. If you answer *no* to any of the statements below, you should correct your storage facility immediately. Contact your local county Extension educator for additional copies of this checklist or for a copy of *Pesticides and Container Management* (PPP-21).

Enter date of each inspection: _____

	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
<i>General Information</i>						
Clean, neat pesticide storage site	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Current, on-site pesticide inventory	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Posted emergency phone numbers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Labels and MSDS on file	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accurate storage inspection log maintained	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Pesticide Containers</i>						
Containers marked with purchase date (old pesticide inventory to be used first)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides segregated	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pesticides stored in original containers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Labels legible and attached to containers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Container caps tightly closed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
No reused pesticide containers present	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pesticides stored off floor and low to ground	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dry formulations stored on pallets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Feeds stored separately from pesticides	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Used containers rinsed and punctured	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rinsed and unrinsed containers separated	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Spills and Disposal</i>						
Storage area free of spills or leaks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shovel and absorbent materials	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Floor drains sealed (if present)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Safety Information</i>						
<i>No smoking</i> signs posted	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Safety equipment separated from pesticides	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fire extinguisher in good working order	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Storage room locked	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Storage room posted: <i>Pesticides. Keep Out.</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Storage site well lit and ventilated	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>