



# Proper Pesticide use and Benefits

# Introduction

- A major component of overall good management practices is the safe storage of pesticides. Whether maintaining small or large amounts of pesticides in a locked cabinet, 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.
- It should remain locked to all persons. Only those individuals who perform an active role in the pesticide application process should have access to the storage site, and they should always re-lock the facility upon departure
- Protect yourself, your family, your home, your property and the environment. Store pesticides wisely

# 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.
- Clean, neat pesticide storage site
- Current, on-site pesticide inventory
- Posted emergency phone numbers
- Labels and MSDS on file
- Accurate storage inspection log maintained
- **Pesticide Containers**
- Containers marked with purchase date (old pesticide inventory to be used first) Insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides segregated. Pesticides stored in original containers. Labels legible and attached to containers. Container caps tightly closed. No reused pesticide containers present  
Pesticides stored off floor and low to ground. Feeds stored separately from pesticides. Used containers rinsed and punctured. Rinsed and un-rinsed containers separated
- **Spills and Disposal** Storage area free of spills or leaks

## **BEFORE YOU BUY AND APPLY A PESTICIDE, CONSIDER ALL THE ALTERNATIVES**

- **Make sure that your problem is bad enough to treat because off target use of pesticide damages many beneficial things such as native beneficial insects and microbes**
- **If you decide to use a pesticide - Properly identify the pest. Always read and follow label directions. Make sure that only enough pesticide is mixed to do the job and that any leftover pesticide is applied according to label directions. Never pour pesticides on the ground or down the drain. Always make sure that food, utensils, toys, and similar items are removed before spraying an area. Keep spray off of areas not intended to be sprayed**
- **Wear protective clothing (gloves, long sleeves, pants, as well as goggles & respirator if needed) while mixing and applying. Wash with soap and water after applying pesticides**
- **Rinse empty containers three times & add rinse water to the sprayer**
- **Never store pesticides in anything other than the original container**

# How to triple-rinse containers



Allow empty pesticide container to drain into the sprayer tank for at least 30 seconds

Fill container one-quarter full of clean water or appropriate spray rinse diluents

Replace cap securely and roll, swirl and shake the contents vigorously for at least one full minute to rinse all surfaces!

Remove container cap and empty rinse into the spray tank. Allow the container to drain for at least 30 seconds

Repeat the fill, shake and drain procedure two (2) more times, using clean water

Properly dispose of the rinsed containers as soon as possible. Dispose of caps with the containers unless recycling

Plastic and plastic-lined bags can be triple-rinsed. For paper and fiber bags and similar containers, completely empty the contents into the tank

Open both ends of the container to remove any remaining pesticide and to prevent reuse