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How Can I Safely Dispose Of Pesticides, Including Herbicides, And Their Containers? Part 2

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A weekly question/answer column

How Can I Safely Dispose Of Pesticides, Including Herbicides, And Their Containers?

Howard Deer answers:*

Part II.

Pesticide use requires disposal of either excess pesticides or empty pesticide containers. If you have on hand more than you need:

- Read the storage and disposal section of the label for special disposal instructions.
- Use the pesticide according to label directions to dispose of the pesticide. This practice is not always feasible, especially when the label limits the frequency of the application.
- If you cannot use it up yourself, then consider giving the pesticide, in its original container, to another applicator to use according to label directions.
- See if your county and city health departments accept home and garden pesticide products for disposal.
- Safely store pesticides until an acceptable method for disposal is available. This may involve storage for extended times and safe storage is difficult.
- See if there are requirements for the proper cleaning of pesticide containers before disposal. Directions are in the storage and disposal section of the label. Most commonly, cleaning is accomplished by triple rinsing containers with water or shaking out paper or plastic bags. To triple rinse:
 - Empty pesticide container into spray tank and allow container to drain for 30 seconds.
 - Add rinse water to container so it is one-fourth full.
 - Rinse container thoroughly, pour rinse water into spray tank and drain for 30 seconds. Do this procedure three times.
 - DO NOT pour pesticides down the drain or into water.
 - DO NOT pour pesticides on the ground.
 - DO NOT burn excess pesticides.
 - DO NOT use pesticides for other than their labeled uses.
 - DO NOT discard pesticide containers in unapproved areas.
 - DO NOT reuse pesticide containers.

* Howard Deer is Utah State University Extension Pesticides and Toxicology Specialist