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# How Can I Safely Dispose Of Excess Pesticides, Including Herbicides, And Their Containers? Part 1

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**A weekly question/answer column**

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

*Howard Deer\* answers:*

Pesticide use requires disposal of either excess pesticides or empty pesticide containers. You can reduce the pesticides or pesticide containers you need to dispose of if you follow these practices:

- Purchase only a single season's amount of the pesticide needed.
- Calculate the amount of pesticide needed to treat the site. Mix that amount and apply it with properly calibrated equipment. Carefully mix and load so there is no spillage.
- Minimize liquid wastes, including spray material left after an application, and the water used to wash and rinse the spray equipment. Use liquids according to application directions.
- Protect pesticides so they remain useful and the labels are legible. Store them in a cool location, out of the sun and in locked cabinets. Keep them in their original containers and out of reach of children or animals. Sunlight, moisture and excessive heat or cold can destroy pesticide effectiveness. Use older products first.

Next week: Some tips for safely disposing of excess pesticides and their containers.

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