



FACT SHEET

Pesticides

Pesticide Disposal

August 13, 2007

Pesticides are classified based on the length of time that they remain effective once applied to the land. A new generation pesticide is what is typically used today because they usually linger in the environment for anywhere from a year to less than two weeks as opposed to early pesticides which will potentially impact the environment for more than 20 years. Pesticides are labeled with specific instructions on use and those directions must be followed to ensure that the product is used and disposed of safely. In order to ensure safe disposal, the following guidelines should be adhered to.

- All pesticides should be used for their intended purpose as per label instructions until gone.
- Only buy in quantities that you will use. Triple rinse plastic or glass containers and apply the pesticide rinseate on your own property in a manner consistent with the disposal instructions on the pesticide label. Another alternative for disposal is to give a pesticide to someone else who will use it. The disposal activities will then need to be carried out by that individual as outlined here.
- Puncture empty plastic containers multiple times and crush so as to avoid the possibility of reuse or pooling water. Dispose of in a landfill. Also, glass containers should be disposed of in a landfill.
- Paper containers must be cleaned and triple bagged in plastic and disposed of in a landfill.
- Any unused liquid must be solidified using an absorbent then triple bagged and disposed of in a landfill. An absorbent is a solid material used to soak up a liquid. Common examples include cat litter or sand.

However, these guidelines do not apply to those pesticides, which EPA has banned from land disposal. This means the EPA will not allow them to be disposed of in a landfill or buried anywhere in the ground. These materials must be incinerated. The following link provides a list of all severely restricted and banned pesticides.

<http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/international/piclist.htm>

Returnable/Refillable Sealed Containers should not be emptied or rinsed. Do not break the seal, but return the product to the point of purchase.

When dealing with pesticides, personal protective equipment (PPE) should be worn. Examples of PPE needed are goggles, disposable plastic or vinyl one-time use gloves, and a dust mask. Also, these activities should be completed in an area with plenty of fresh air available to lessen the risk of inhalation.

The SC Department of Agriculture is receiving grant money through the EPA in addition to the allotted state funds to run a one-time pesticide disposal program over the next two years. They are currently setting up an Advisory Committee to include personnel from their department as well as the pesticide community and other state agencies involved in the handling or disposal of pesticides. By March 2008, they will have outreach material, a disposal waste company and begin collections. They will then do an evaluation of the program. This will only be for pesticides from agricultural sites and will not include household related materials or fertilizers.

For more information, please call

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