

# Safe Disposal of Unwanted Pesticides

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## Overview

Pesticides must be handled, used and disposed of properly to minimize the risk to human health and the environment. Unused and leftover pesticides in garages, barns and outbuildings can pose a risk to people, animals and the environment.

Under Saskatchewan law, commercial pesticides must be stored separately from any foodstuffs, feeds or other material intended for consumption by humans or animals. Restricted pesticides must be stored in a separate locked building or in a separate locked room or compartment that has no opening except for ventilation and an entrance/exit.

If your pesticides are in leaky containers, consider storing these containers inside larger, secure containers such as 20 L plastic pails or 200 L plastic drums. Keep liquids and solids separate and properly labelled. When disposing of unwanted pesticides or their containers, the first step is always to consult the label for specific disposal instructions.

## Domestic Pesticides

Domestic class pesticides have the word “Domestic” displayed on the product label and are for personal use in and around the home. This can include pesticides purchased at local hardware or garden stores.

Domestic (or household) pesticide containers may be disposed of in the household garbage. Do not put them into “blue bins” for recycling. Rinse empty containers before disposing of them. Use the rinse water when mixing a new batch of pesticide or pour it onto the ground in the area where you applied the pesticide; do not pour it down the drain.



## Disposal of Domestic Pesticides

- Read the label for disposal procedures.
- If the label does not provide directions, the product can be accepted at various collection points throughout Saskatchewan through the Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Program.
  - Only products in the original container with original label(s) intact will be accepted.
  - Leaking or improperly sealed containers will not be accepted. Please handle cautiously and place into a secondary sealed container to transport for recycling.
  - Never burn unwanted pesticides or pour them down the drain.
- For more information, see [Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Program](#) for details.
- Unopened containers may be returnable to the retailer; call ahead to confirm.

## Commercial Pesticides

Commercial class pesticides have the word “Commercial”, “Agricultural”, “Horticultural” or “Industrial” displayed on the product label and are restricted to commercial activities as indicated on the label. These are not available to the general public for use in and around the home and are generally concentrated pesticides that require dilution before they are used.

## Restricted Pesticides

Restricted-class pesticides can only be used under certain circumstances by trained individuals, they are not available to the general public. They are a type of commercial pesticide with additional limitations on the label. These limitations are due to the toxicity of the pesticide or to environmental risks related to the use of the product.

## Disposal of Commercial or Restricted Pesticides

- Consult the label for specific disposal guidelines.
- If no guidelines are provided, [Cleanfarms](#) runs collection programs for unwanted or obsolete pesticides across the province.
- For more information, see [Cleanfarms](#) for details.
  - Only commercial pesticide products in their original containers and labels will be accepted.
  - To determine the classification of a pesticide product, you can refer to its label or search for its [Pest Control Product \(PCP\)](#) registration number online.
  - Leaking or improperly sealed containers will not be accepted. Please handle cautiously and place into a secondary sealed container to transport for recycling.
  - Unopened containers may be returnable to the retailer; call ahead to confirm.

## Disposal of Empty Pesticide Containers

### Commercial/Restricted Pesticide Containers (up to 23L)

Commercial and restricted pesticide containers must be appropriately rinsed and may be taken to a container collection site for recycling. Visit [Cleanfarms](#) for instructions on how to properly rinse containers and for a list of empty container recycling sites in Saskatchewan.

### Seed, Pesticide and Inoculant Bags

Seed, pesticide and inoculant bags can also be recycled. Pick up a free plastic agriculture recycling bag from your seed dealer or ag-retailer. Ensure bags are empty, place about 40 small empty bags (up to 100 kg) in the ag plastic recycling bag and tie tightly at the end with rope or twine.

Remove plastic liners from large, bulk bags or totes (greater than 100 kg, usually 500 kg or 1,000 kg) wherever possible and tie in bundles of six and return to a collection site. See [Cleanfarms](#) for details.

### Totes and Drums

To recycle totes and drums, leave the metal cages on 1,000L totes, thoroughly rinse to ensure no product remains, seal the container with all bungs and enclosures in place (if not rinsed) and return to a local collection site. See [Cleanfarms](#) for additional details.

## How to Safely Transport Unwanted Pesticides

Pesticide, any material mixed or treated with pesticide or any container that holds pesticide, must be secured during transportation to prevent a spill that could potentially contaminate the environment or cause harm to human health.

Pesticides must be transported separately from food and drink intended for humans or animals as well as plants by keeping the pesticide in a vapour-proof container always packaged securely and upright.

