

Safe Disposal of Treated Seeds

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It is important to dispose of treated seeds properly. In addition to posing a risk to the environment and human health, improper disposal of treated seeds violates *The Pest Control Products Regulations, 2015*.

Seed treatments are pesticides used to coat seeds to protect seedlings from pests including soil and seed-borne diseases. Seed treatments are regulated pest control products that are safe when used and disposed of properly. Treated seed should not be used for food, feed or oil production and there is zero tolerance for treated seed within the grain handling value chain. Improper disposal of treated seed may pose risks to wildlife and livestock and can have serious environmental impacts, including water and soil contamination.

You should consider the following options when disposing of your excess treated seeds.

- **Follow the pesticide label:** Take time to read and understand the label to ensure the seeds treated with different active ingredients are disposed of properly. It is important to know this information before disposing of the treated seeds. For leftover treated seed, specific instructions on labels must be followed properly.
- **Continue seeding:** The simplest and preferred method of disposal is to seed it. Leftover treated seed may be double-sown around the headlands or may be seeded on fallow or unused land. There may be restrictions on seeding rate or depth so make sure to follow the label.
- **Returning treated seed:** Seed in the original packaging with a known variety and treatment may be accepted for return to retail.
- **Storing treated seed:** Ensure the manufacturer supports carryover of their products and under what conditions and time frame the seed can be stored and remain viable. It is common for seed germination to decrease over time due to poor quality, disease and poor storage conditions. Treated seed intended for carryover should be stored in the original container or a properly sealed hopper bottom bin, ideally with smooth walls or as per the label instructions.
- **Burying treated seed:** In accordance with local requirements, leftovers of treated seed can be buried as permitted on the label and if they are kept away from all water sources. It is essential to remember soil contact is required for breakdown, so the quantity should not be more than five litres. It is recommended the top of the pile be at least 30 cm below the surface of the soil. Some landfills may also accept treated seed.
- **Waste management facilities:** For larger quantities, you may hire a private company to collect and dispose of the treated seed. There will be a fee for this service.

If you are concerned treated seed has been improperly disposed of, please contact the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture at crops@gov.sk.ca or 306-787-4660.

For more information on this topic, please refer to [Canadian Seed Growers Association](#).