

Homeowners: Disposal of Pesticides

Pesticide Control Program
NJ Department of
Environmental Protection
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Pesticides have been and are of great benefit to mankind; however, they can pose a serious threat to ourselves and the environment, if used or disposed of incorrectly. Below are some recommendations for the safe disposal of unwanted pesticide products and empty pesticide containers around the home.

UNWANTED PESTICIDES: Do not pour leftover home and garden pesticides down the sink, into the toilet, or down a sewer or street drain. Pesticides may interfere with the operation of wastewater treatment systems or pollute waterways and many municipal systems are not equipped to remove all pesticide residues. If pesticides reach waterways, they may harm fish, plants, and other living things.

The best way to dispose of small amounts of excess pesticides is to use them - apply them - according to the directions on the label. If you cannot use them, ask your neighbors whether they have a similar pest control problem and can use them. Using pesticides correctly is the most environmentally sound disposal method.

If a pesticide product cannot be properly used or is very old and chemically deteriorated, check with your local solid waste management authority to find out whether your community has a household hazardous waste collection program for getting rid of unwanted, leftover pesticides. To identify your local solid waste agency, look in the government section of your phone book under categories such as *solid waste*, *public works*, *trash* or *refuse collection*, or you can call 1-800-CLEANUP.

CONTAINER STORAGE: While awaiting disposal, always store substances in their original containers with the original label. If an item is not in its original container, clearly label the current container with the product's name and date and place the word **DANGER** on the container.

If the product is in a rusting metal or a breakable container, this container should be placed within a larger, plastic container. The plastic container should be packed with a non-flammable absorbent, such as clay-based kitty litter, to help contain any possible leaks, and place the word **DANGER** on the outside container.

If the pesticide is flammable, store it away from all sources of heat, spark and flame. Light switches, electrical appliances, garage door openers and other switches can all be sources of sparks.

Store containers out of the reach of children and pets in a separate locked cabinet or other secure structure.

EMPTY PESTICIDE CONTAINERS: Empty home and garden pesticide containers may be thrown into the regular trash or offered for recycling. Do not puncture spray cans and do not reuse containers for the storage of other materials.

Please contact the following if you need more information:

NJDEP Pesticide Control Program

General information: 609-984-6507

To report a pesticide misuse: 609-984-6568

Website: www.pcpnj.org

National Pesticide Telecommunications Network

For questions on possible health effects: 1-800-858-7378

New Jersey Poison Information System

For emergency situations involving pesticide exposure or poisoning:

1-800-222-1222