

ILO Toolkit Control Sheet P104 Pesticide Control approach 2

Protective equipment

Disposing of Pesticide Wastes

Scope

This control sheet is part of the ILO Chemical Control Toolkit. You should use it when the toolkit recommends control approach 2 - personal protective equipment for using pesticide. The sheet gives good practice advice on exposure control. It can be applied to all tasks in disposing of pesticide wastes, which includes pesticide containers. It describes the key points you need to follow to help reduce exposure to an adequate level. For certain products, your local authority or environmental agency may impose special rules for wastes. This sheet identifies the minimum standards to protect your health.

Access.

- Make sure someone else knows what you are doing.
- Keep people away from pesticide waste

Design - environment

- Keep wastes in secure storage. Lock them away in a place free from moisture and sunlight.
- Make sure that the store can hold back spillages.
- Make sure the waste container is labelled – you need to know what is in it, and how much.
- Make plans for what to do in case of waste spillage.

Pesticide wastes

Concentrates

- If possible, use up the concentrate. Otherwise it should be disposed through a special waste disposal contractor.

Diluted pesticides

- Do not dump unused spray fluid. Spray the crop or area again until the reservoir is empty.
- Wash the reservoir inside with clean water, and spray this also.

Pesticide waste containers

- Wash out containers with water and use the washings in making up diluted pesticide for application.

Metal containers

- Do not re-use metal pesticide containers. Do not cut metal containers.
- Either return metal containers to the supplier, to a specialist cleaner, or crush and bury them.
- Do not bury containers near watercourses or houses.

Glass containers

- Do not re-use glass pesticide containers.
- Either return glass containers to the supplier, to a glass recycling plant, or crush and bury them.
- Do not bury containers near watercourses or houses.

Plastic containers

- Do not re-use pesticide containers.
- Either return plastic containers to the supplier, recycle them through a contractor or burn them.
- Do not burn containers near watercourses or houses.

Protective equipment

- Throw disposable gloves away every time you take them off.
- If you use non-disposable gloves, wash them well in soapy water before taking them off, then wash them inside and outside, and hang them up to dry. Throw these gloves away after using them for a week, even if they are not worn out.
- Look after your protective equipment. When not in use, keep it clean and store it in a clean, safe place, separate from normal clothing. Change your protective equipment when it is damaged.

Cleaning and housekeeping

- Seal waste into marked containers. Don't mix different chemicals in the same container.
- Never re-use a pesticide concentrate container.
- Collect water from washing the spray nozzles and spray boom and dispose of it safely.
- Park tractors and sprayers where rainwater run-off and tractor washings will not enter watercourses.

Training and supervision

- Tell your workers about any harmful properties of the substances they are disposing and if they need to use personal protective equipment, why this is so.
- Tell your workers what symptoms to watch out for, and who to tell if they experience these.

- Teach your workers what to do if something goes wrong.