



Pesticide Product Management Practices, Proper Disposal Methods, and Container Recycling Options for NJ Farms

WHO IS AFFECTED BY THIS ADVISORY?

Farmers and Farm Operators who generate and dispose of waste pesticide, herbicide, or fungicide products.

A “pesticide” is the general term for any substance or mixture of substances labeled, designed, or intended for use in preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest (nematode, insect, rodent, predatory animal) or for use as a defoliant, desiccant, or plant regulator for fungi or weeds (more commonly referred to as an herbicide).

WHY IS DEP ISSUING THIS ADVISORY?

Farms commonly generate waste pesticides when there are changes to operations, such as acreage, crop type, or different pest infestations, or waste pesticides may also accumulate from overstock of product or poor storage practices (extended storage and container damages). For waste disposal purposes the materials may be considered either a solid waste, or a hazardous waste. This advisory is intended to assist the farming community with proper management, disposal, and recycling options for pesticide products.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Disposing of waste pesticides, particularly unlabeled/unknown materials, larger volumes, and concentrated liquids, can be challenging and costly. The best way to reduce or avoid disposal costs is to limit or avoid generating pesticide waste. Based on NJDEP’s experience, the following suggestions can help reduce disposal problems and costs:

- 1) When initially purchasing a product read the label, determine how much you need now, and purchase that amount. Less volume equals less risk of disposal. Beware of volume discounts and don’t order more product than can be used annually.
- 2) Label containers with date of purchase using permanent pen to track product age. Some pesticide products have limited shelf-life/storage life and effectiveness.
- 3) If mixing/dilution is required, mix only enough for the immediate job.
- 4) Store product appropriately, as described on the label, to avoid damage to the package, container, or label.

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- 5) If you have too much product, have leftover mixes, change crops, change operations, and the products are still of quality, check with other farmers or associations to inquire if someone else can use the product(s).
- 6) Consider using "Integrated pest management" ("IPM") methodologies to manage pests. IPM is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices. IPM programs use current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the environment. This information, in combination with available pest control methods, is used to manage pest damage by the most economical means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment. IPM users often generate less pesticide waste.

If disposal is the only option, read the product label to determine if the pesticide can be disposed of as a solid waste, or must be disposed as a hazardous waste. If the material is considered a solid waste, and before you put the material out for disposal with your normal collection service, call your collector to advise of the material to be disposed. While the waste may be considered a solid waste, some waste processing facilities (transfer stations, landfills, or incinerators) are prohibited from accepting any pesticide wastes. If this is the case, or in the case of the material being considered a hazardous waste, a hazardous waste collector will have to be contacted to assist with the disposal of the waste. Approved hazardous waste collectors can be found at this link: [Transporters - A-901 Licensed - Hazardous Waste](#).

Plastic pesticide containers that are empty and triple rinsed can often be recycled (but not through residential recycling programs) and should not be reused to store other products. The New Jersey Department of Agriculture has developed special programs (included below) to assist farmers in recycling the plastic pesticide containers generated on their farm operations. For additional information contact the Recycling Program Manager for the New Jersey Department of Agriculture at (609) 913-6490.

- [Pesticide Containers \(Seasonal\) - Atlantic](#)
- [Pesticide Containers - Burlington](#)
- [Pesticide Containers - Monmouth](#)
- [Pesticide Containers \(Seasonal\) - Salem](#)

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

[NJDEP - Division of Waste and UST Compliance & Enforcement](#)

[NJDEP - Bureau of Pesticide Compliance](#)

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

NJDEP Bureau of Hazardous Waste Compliance & Enforcement	609-943-3019
Northern Region	973-656-4470
Southern Region	856-614-6348

Please note this advisory is intended to be a summary explanation of a DEP initiative. It does not include all potentially applicable requirements. If you have any questions, please contact the phone number listed above.