

# Disposing of Pesticide Containers

## *Solid Waste Management Fact Sheet No. 13*

### **Pesticides**

The best way to dispose of pesticides is to use them in their diluted form at the labeled rate on the target plant. Left over pesticides should not be dumped, poured down the drain, or sent to the landfill. Some counties offer hazardous waste disposal services. For details, contact your County Extension Service, County Health Department or County Noxious Weed Department.

### **Disposal**

The following procedures allow individuals using a pesticide at their private residences or farms to properly dispose of any pesticide wastes as required by Kansas law. Failure to do so can result in civil and criminal penalties. Assistance can be obtained from a field representative of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) who may be contacted through the Topeka office, 913-296-1607 or the Kansas Board of Agriculture (KSBA), Division of Plant Health, 913-296-2263.

Kinds of Pesticide Wastes. There are three kinds of wastes which can originate from the use of pesticide; (1) leftover or unused pesticides, (2) empty containers, and (3) the rinse solutions obtained by rinsing of a pesticide container.

### **Containers**

Do not reuse pesticide containers for any other purpose and do not allow children to play with pesticide containers. Leftover pesticides should be kept in tightly closed containers when storing. Always triple rinse to empty containers of liquid pesticides.

#### **For triple rinse, follow this procedure:**

1. Empty the container into the sprayer.
2. Fill container one-fifth to one-fourth full of water.
3. Replace the cap and shake the contents to rinse all inside surfaces.
4. Drain the rinse water from the container into the sprayer.
5. Repeat steps 3 through 5 at least two more times for a total of three rinses. Remember to empty each rinse solution into the sprayer.
6. Remove lids from containers and send crushed containers to the landfill or to a pesticide container recycling program.

### **Nonburnable Containers (Metal, Plastic or Glass)**

- Rinse the containers three times.
- Many large containers in good shape can be recycled by your supplier. Return them to your supplier, a pesticide manufacturer or formulator, or a drum reconditioner.
- Properly rinsed containers may be crushed and buried in a sanitary landfill.
- If it is not possible to rinse containers, contact the Department of Health & Environment for assistance.

### **Rinse Solutions**

Reuse all rinse solutions if possible. Otherwise, each rinse solution should be sprayed or uniformly spread over a preselected ground surface which is listed as a target site on the label.

Prepared by  
Charles W. Marr

Extension Horticulturist, Vegetable Crops

Robert I. Neier  
Sedgwick County Extension Agent, Horticulture



**Cooperative Extension Service**  
**Kansas State University**  
**Manhattan, Kansas**

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