

Environmental Health and Safety

Universal Waste Pesticides

Purpose

One of the primary goals of the University Extension Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program is the responsible use of pesticides. Pesticides, fertilizers, rinsate, and wash water must be handled in a manner that prevents spills or uncontrolled releases to the environment. Applicators are responsible for obtaining and maintaining the appropriate pesticide applicator license before conducting applications. **Always read and follow the pesticide label.**

Waste minimization

- Eliminate or reduce the generation of contaminated water. Any contaminated water should be prevented from moving off site to minimize the amount of environmental impact.
- Mix only enough for immediate use to avoid leftover material.
- Mix and use the chemical products as directed by the container labeling.
- Triple rinse or pressure rinse pesticide containers as soon as they are emptied and pour the rinsates into the spray tank. If measuring equipment needs rinsing, put rinsate in the spray tank.

Storage

Store pesticides in a locked ventilated area, indoors. Use secondary containment to prevent leaks and spills.

Empty containers

To dispose of empty containers, triple rinse the container, collect the rinsate as hazardous chemical waste, remove labels and render the container unusable. Plastic and plastic-lined paper bags can be triple-rinsed. Cut out both ends of paper bags to prevent reuse. Then dispose of in the regular trash.

Disposal

Rinsates should be collected in a sturdy plastic container. Rinsates from different pesticides can be added to the same container, but separate by compatibility and type (herbicide, insecticide, fungicide, etc.). Label the container "Waste Pesticide Rinsates." Keep a log of what pesticides and concentrations are added to the container. Unused or recalled pesticide products should be kept in their original container for disposal through the annual Idaho Department of Agriculture Pesticide Disposal Program; EH&S coordinates this disposal in early spring. If the original container is damaged or leaking, place it in sturdy second container. Fill-out and attach a label to the container. Mark the label "Universal Waste – Pesticide" and date it. For both rinsate containers and unused product, submit an electronic disposal request to EH&S. A Universal Waste Pesticide may not be stored on-site for longer than one year from the date it is declared a waste.

