



# COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

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## PROPER PESTICIDE STORAGE

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This fact sheet will cover minimizing storage problems, design of pesticide storage area, proper storage of pesticides and open containers and minimizing storage time.

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## Proper Pesticide Storage

Pesticide storage is deadly serious. Half the pesticide-related deaths in the United States are children under the age of 10. To control access, lock pesticides securely in a storage area with a warning sign on the door or window. Warning signs should have emergency numbers on them. Do not store pesticides near food, feed, or personal protective equipment because of contamination.

“Child-resistant” packaging does not mean child-proof. You still must store pesticides properly out of children’s reach. Be sure to close containers tightly.



### Minimize storage problems through good planning:

- Buy only the amount of pesticide that you need for a specific job or for the current season
- Buy smaller volume containers, even if more expensive. This eliminates waste and storage space
- Consider ready-to-use products rather than concentrated solutions

### Maintaining a pesticide storage area:

- Keep out unwanted visitors, especially children and animals
- Consider fencing or locking pesticide storage area.
- Use good lighting and ventilation
- Secure area to prevent spillage in adverse weather conditions
- Reduce dampness. This decreases shelf life of many chemicals
- Avoid high and freezing temperatures

### Proper storage of pesticides:

- Do not store pesticides with or near food, medicine, or cleaning supplies
- Do not store pesticides with or near seed or animal feed
- Do not store flammable materials with pesticides
- Do not store pesticides with fertilizers
- Do not allow pesticides to freeze

## **What do I do with open containers of pesticides?**

- Recap containers and reseal bags
- Put original container in clear plastic bags or see-through plastic ware
- Mark all containers with the date of purchase
- Record product name, active ingredient, record of use, date, and volume
- Keep pesticides in their original containers

## **Throughout the year:**

- Inspect your storage area
- Check containers for damage or leaks
- Dispose of unwanted or outdated materials according to the label recommendations

## **Important information:**

- Keep spill control supplies within the pesticide storage area
- Keep pesticides in their original containers
- Never put pesticides in containers used for food, drink, or household products
- Use transparent tape over labels to keep them legible
- Never reuse a pesticide container

## **Minimize length of storage:**

- Take a pesticide inventory. This eliminates over-ordering and storage
- Buy pesticides just before application. This shortens storage to weeks or days
- Return unopened pesticide containers to your dealer
- Use last year's chemicals first and avoid carryover in the future

**Always read the pesticide label** for specific storage requirements

## **References and Resources**

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