



# COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

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## MIXING PESTICIDES

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This fact sheet covers mixing safety, precautions, and how to mix a tank of pesticide.

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## Mixing Pesticides

Mixing includes measuring the amount of pesticide needed, placing it in the sprayer and filling the sprayer with water. This should be done in a manner that safeguards the person carrying out the mixing as well as protecting the environment from negligent or accidental contamination. Mixing increasing exposure to concentrated forms of the pesticide.

### Mixing Safety

- **READ THE LABEL.**
- Mix only if the weather is suitable for spraying.
- Collect all the equipment needed in one place.
- Wear proper protective clothing.
- Calibrate the sprayer before mixing the pesticide.
- Mix only the amount of pesticide needed.



### Precautions

- Mix pesticides outside, in the area of application, and away from animals and food.
- Never mix near surface water or storm drains.
- Never eat, drink, or smoke when mixing pesticides.
- Never combine pesticides with other chemicals unless stated on the label (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [Tank Mixing](#)).
- Mix in the correct proportions. Never mix pesticides at higher concentrations than are on the label.
- Do not allow the garden hose nozzle to dangle in the spray tank where it will contact the mixture and become submerged (contaminated). If possible, fill from a bucket.
- Fill the sprayer slowly and carefully to avoid splashing.

### How to Mix a Tank of Pesticide

- Fill the sprayer with about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the amount of water needed.
- Measure the amount of pesticide needed and pour into the tank.
- Rinse the measuring tool with water 3 times and pour the rinsate into the sprayer.
- If you empty the pesticide container, immediately rinse 3

times with water and pour the rinsate into the sprayer.

- Add the remaining amount of water.
- Agitate as needed.

### **More Tips**

- Never siphon pesticides with your mouth.
- Open bags and boxes with a knife or scissors (used only for this purpose). Do not rip them open.
- Stand upwind when mixing.
- Do not leave spray tank unattended.

### **References and Resources**

Gempler's Tailgate Training Tip Sheet. 1996. *Mix and Load Pesticides Safely*, No. 28. Gempler's, Inc., Belleville, WI.

*Use Caution when Mixing Pesticides*. 1997. Home Pesticide Education and Safety Training, University of Wisconsin Extension, Madison, WI.

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