Pesticide Storage

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Recommended Practices

♦ Provide secure, safe storage for pesticide containers.

Pesticides should be stored in a secure storage building or area. The floor of the storage area should be made of treated concrete or other chemically-impervious material. Protective coatings are available that help prevent the corrosive actions of pesticides and fertilizers on concrete.

Consider the risk of environmental contamination when locating and securing pesticide storage areas.

Post signs that clearly indicate that you store pesticides in the building. See references at the end of this BMP.

Do not store pesticides with food, feed, seed, fertilizers or personal protection equipment (PPE).

Designate a specific area within the storage facility for each group of pesticides (e.g., herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, and fumigants). Flammable products should be separated from non-flammable products. Access to the containers should be unimpeded. Keep bags and containers off the ground.

Containers should not be filled beyond 95% of their capacity to allow for thermal expansion.

♦ Two building options exist: Build a permanent structure or a portable hazardous material storage building.

Portable structures are commercially available and may be appropriate for the storage of small quantities (range from four to fifty 55 gallon drums). They should have self-closing doors that can be locked. These facilities can be moved and relocated with a fork lift.

Preparation for construction of a new building should include consultation with a licensed contractor familiar with state code building requirements. The facility should provide adequate within-building spill containment. The building should be accessible from all sides for emergency and fire fighting equipment. The distance the building should be ‘set back’ from other buildings depends on the thickness of the fire wall.

♦ Choose an appropriate location and design.

Consider locating the building downwind and downhill from sensitive areas such as houses, play areas and livestock facilities (DFA recommends 2000 ft from sensitive areas). Preferably, the area should be located at least 400 feet down-gradient from any drinking water supplies and 200 feet down-gradient from surface water (DFA recommendations).

Choose a site that will not flood nor be likely to allow surface water to become contaminated if there is a fire or spill. The site should not lie within a Zone II delineation.

If you have a multi-story building, locate the storage facility on the ground level. Pesticides should not be stored underground or in basements due to increase difficulty in monitoring leaks and other potential dangers to ground water.

Keep the area well-ventilated so that fumes do not accumulate. Fans that provide 3 to 6 air exchanges per hour are recommended. The lights and fans
should operate off the same switch. The air inlet should be located within 12 inches of the floor to facilitate the escape of heavier vapors. Keep empty containers in a secured area until you are ready to dispose of them. Inquire to determine if a local distributor or company will recycle the containers. If needed, dispose of unusable materials through community programs.

- **Develop a plan to follow in case of pesticide emergencies.**

  Pesticide applicators should develop an emergency plan that lists actions to take and persons to contact in case of a pesticide poisoning, spill, fire, or other accident.

  **Significant portions of this BMP were excerpted from:**


  *Training manual for the private pesticide applicator, 4th ed.*, January 1998. Published by the University of Wisconsin-Extension, Pesticide Applicator Training Program, Madison, WI. (contact: Roger Flashinski).

  **For further information:**


PESTICIDE APPLICATION CHECKLIST

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Massachusetts Poison Control System.  1-800-682-9211     Chemtrec. 1-800-424-9300

Prior to the Application

Worker Protection:
- Have all appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) ready to use.
- Have labels and MSDS on-hand
- Have decontamination kit stocked and ready for use.

Appropriate notification:
- Neighbor relations.
- Sign-posting.
- WPS and REI notification.

Environmental concerns:
- Address any public drinking water recharge area restrictions.
- Check to see that the planks are in place.
- Check the weather forecast.

Transport the pesticide in a legal manner.

Applicator must have the appropriate license for application.

Verify that all equipment is working properly.

Observe pre-harvest intervals.

Have your Emergency Action Plan on-site.

After the Application

Record keeping done?

Containers rinsed and disposed of appropriately?

Excess pesticides properly stored?

Clothes properly washed after application?

Equipment that may be helpful to have on hand:

- 5-gallon bucket
- Knife
- Measuring cup
- Duct tape
- Injection port rinse device
- Stopwatch
- Mixing stick
- Portable communication devices (e.g., cellular phones)
- Bungee cords (to hold hose, etc.)
- Assorted tools (pliers, screwdriver, wrench, etc.)
- Clean water in jugs
- Pesticide clean-up kit (5 gallon is good)
- WPS decontamination kit

Prepared by Carolyn DeMoranville (Project Leader) and Hilary Sandler. Production of this Management Guide was supported by Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture as part of the Agro-Environmental Technology Grants Program. Matching funds were provided by University of Massachusetts Extension (USDA Cooperating) and Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association. UMass Extension offers equal opportunity in programs and employment.

Artwork by Meredith Albright, freelance scientific illustrator, Bellingham, MA. 2000