

Spring 3-2015

2015 Chartbook: Pesticide Storage

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Sandler, Hilary A., "2015 Chartbook: Pesticide Storage" (2015). *Cranberry Chart Book - Management Guide*. 200.
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PESTICIDE STORAGE GUIDELINES 2015

Prepared by Hilary A. Sandler

Always read the label of the pesticide when you have specific questions concerning storage or disposal. Pesticides should be stored in properly designed storage facilities that are well ventilated and maintain a cool, dry environment. Affix fire extinguishers on the outside and the inside of the building. Be sure to inform your local Fire Department which buildings on your property are storage facilities.

Avoid carry-over of pesticides; buy only what you will need for the current season. It is not advisable to use pesticides that have been held over in opened containers. Take the precautions necessary to prevent cross-contamination of all pesticides and fertilizers when stored in the same facility. If you have many different kinds of materials in your storage facility, it is helpful to place all insecticides in one area, all herbicides in another, etc. All materials should be clearly labeled. Post a list of materials outside of the building if possible.

Dry pesticides (e.g., granulars, powders) should be stored in a cool, dry place. Generally, no other special precautions are needed with these materials. Liquid or emulsified products may have restricted temperature ranges at which they should be stored. CHECK THE LABEL! In general, liquid or emulsified materials should not be stored at temperatures below 45°F or at temperatures that frequently exceed 100°F. These pesticides may form crystals at the lower temperatures. If crystals form, bring the pesticide into a warm place and gently agitate the pesticide container to re-dissolve the pesticide. NOTE: If you are storing Roundup, do not use galvanized or unlined steel (except stainless steel) containers. A highly combustible gas mixture may form.

Properly dispose of used containers. Check with your local supplier for any available recycling programs. A paper bag is considered by DEP to be empty if “all wastes have been removed that can be removed by shaking or equivalent means...”. No more than one inch of material should remain. In addition, consider placing the pesticide bag in a plastic trash bag prior to disposal. For liquid-type materials, triple-rinse the container. Plastic containers should be recycled or reconditioned. For further information, contact the Pesticide Bureau at (617) 626-1776.