

---

## Section 19

---

# How to Store Pesticides Safely

No pesticide application is complete until everything is put away. All the pesticides, the empty containers, and the spray equipment must be stored or disposed of properly. Make it a habit to store all spraying materials safely at the end of the day or before going on to the next job.



### Pesticide Storage Regulations

Proper storage of pesticides on the farm is important. It is **illegal** to store pesticides under unsafe conditions. The **Pesticides Act** gives safe storage requirements for storage facilities. The **Canadian Farm Building Code** gives additional recommendations for the construction of your pesticide storage.

## Pesticides Act



There are two regulations that everyone must follow, including homeowners who store pesticides for use in and around their home.

- < Pesticides must be stored away from food, drinks and pet food.
- < Pesticides must never be left unattended in a parked vehicle.

The following table shows the storage requirements under the Pesticides Act for persons storing pesticides for uses other than in or around the home.

---

### Pesticides Act Storage Requirements

---

	Schedule 3, 4 & 6	Schedule 2	Schedule 1 & 5
No Contact with Food or Drink	T	T	T
Not Impair Health/Safety	T	T	T
Clean & Orderly Manner	T	T	T
Warning Signs Posted on Storage Buildings	T	T	T
Warning Signs Posted on Unattended Vehicles	T	T	T
Emergency Telephone Numbers Posted	T	T	T
Ventilated to Outside		T	T
Limited Access (Locked)		T	T
No Floor Drain		T	T
Safety Equipment Available		T	T
Area Used Exclusively for Pesticides			T

---

## Storage Building



The pesticide storage should be isolated from children and livestock, and from any area where human food or animal feed is stored. Avoid sites where there is any chance that runoff or drainage water from the pesticide storage may enter surface or ground water. Also, avoid flood areas.

Schedule 1 and 5 pesticides must be stored in an area used only for pesticides.

The area or building used for pesticide storage must have a floor that does not allow seepage - a concrete or asphalt floor is best. Drains are not allowed **unless** they lead into a separate holding tank which can be pumped out. The storage must be ventilated to the outside with windows or a fan system.



Keep all unauthorized persons from entering the storage area. Make certain that the area can be securely locked. Make sure that warning signs with the words, “Chemical (or Pesticide) Storage - Authorized Persons Only - Warning”, are posted in block letters on all storage doors.

Emergency equipment and protective clothing must be available close to the storage area. **Do not** store protective clothing and equipment in the storage area because it may become contaminated.

Emergency telephone numbers must be posted nearby for quick reference:

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| < fire department                             | < physician                 |
| < police                                      | < hospital                  |
| < ambulance                                   | < Spills Action Centre      |
| < local office of Ministry of the Environment | < Poison Information Centre |

(You can use the card in the front of this manual.)

## **Building a Pesticide Storage**

You can buy modular units for pesticide storage, and adapt them to meet the requirements of the Pesticides Act. For ideas on how to build a pesticide storage, refer to the OMAFRA Factsheet, ‘**Pesticide Handling Facility**’, Agdex 607, 1994.

## **Canadian Farm Building Code (1990)**

If you are planning a new pesticide storage area or building, the Canadian Farm Building Code has some additional recommendations. A pesticide storage area should:

1. Be a permanent structure.
2. Be a free standing building or an area sectioned off by a wall with a fire-resistance rating of not less than one hour.
3. Have a floor of concrete or other material that will not absorb spills. It must have a curb at least 2 inches high to contain spills.
4. Have an entrance only from the outside.
5. Have an insulated and heated cabinet for pesticides that must be protected from freezing.
6. Be set up so that flammable and combustible pesticides are kept separate from other pesticides.

**A building permit may be required for a pesticide storage. Check with your municipality for local requirements.**

## **Temporary Storage**

A temporary storage can be set up outside for large bulk containers that are weather-proof. The area must be fenced, signed, and secure enough to deny access to unauthorized persons. Bulk containers may also be stored on a transport trailer. Make sure that the temporary storage site is not a hazard to wells or watercourses in case of a spill.

## Storage During Transportation



The Pesticides Act also regulates storage during transportation. The pesticide must be locked in the trunk of the vehicle, not the cab or passenger area. If the pesticide cannot be locked up, an authorized person must stay with the vehicle. A “Chemical (or Pesticide) Storage - Authorized Persons Only - Warning” sign must be placed on an unattended, parked vehicle that contains pesticides.

When you take the pesticides to the field, do not leave the vehicle on the shoulder of the road. You must park it on your property in order to “deny access to the public”. Then, you are protected by the Trespass to Property Act which makes it illegal for someone to come on your property.

## Storage Tips

How pesticides are stored is as important as where they are stored.

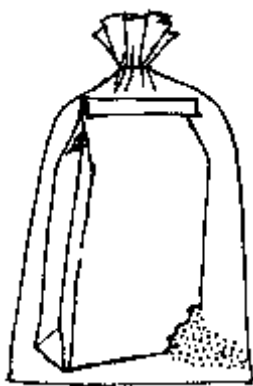
- < **Store pesticides in a dry area.** Moisture will cause containers to rust and bags to split, causing spills and loss of pesticide. Pesticide labels may deteriorate with moisture and be impossible to read. You may lose information that is essential to help you handle the product safely.
- < **Some pesticides require protection from freezing if stored over the winter.** If you are storing these pesticides until the next season you will have to winterize the storage area. Read the pesticide label – it will tell you any special temperature requirements for storage.
- < **Do not store herbicides close to other pesticides.** Herbicides can contaminate other products by the vapours they give off. When the contaminated pesticide is used to control a pest problem, the herbicide may injure or kill the crop. If possible, keep herbicides in a tightly sealed container.
- < **Know the quantity and the age of the pesticide in storage by keeping a current inventory list.** Write the year of purchase on the pesticide label.
- < **Keep an up-to-date inventory list at your house or office as well as in the pesticide storage.** If you have a fire, the fire department will need a complete list of what is in the storage area.

- < **Try not to buy or store more pesticide than you need for a single season.** If you do have leftover pesticides remember to use any of last year's pesticide first.
- < **Keep all pesticides in their original, labelled containers.**
- < **Make routine inspections of containers.** Look for rust, leaks, loose caps, or bungs. If you find a damaged container of a Schedule 1, 2, 3 (non-domestic) or 5 pesticide, remove the pesticide from its original container. Place the pesticide in a container that is similar to the original (for example, plastic replaced with plastic). (Reg.914 s.28)
- < **Unlabelled pesticides are dangerous and illegal. Without the label, you don't know what the pesticide is nor how to handle it safely.**



- < **Label the replacement container with the pesticide's**  
**S trade name or common name, and**  
**S concentration of each active ingredient in the product, and**  
**S the pesticide's registration number under the Pest Control Products Act or the Fertilizers Act. Reg. 914 s.28**

- < **Never store pesticides in any container that was previously used to hold food or beverages.** (Pesticides in old food/beverage containers are often mistaken as a food/beverage and may be swallowed accidentally especially by small children).



- < **Place a damaged bag inside a clean plastic bag.** Close it tightly and label it with the necessary information. Sometimes it is possible to take the label from the damaged container and attach it to the new container.
- < **Do not store treated seed in the pesticide storage area.**
- < **Keep absorbent material such as kitty litter close by to clean up spills.**
- < **Keep a good supply of soap and water nearby.** You will need it for washing up, cleaning equipment and filling tanks. It is also essential in case of a poisoning emergency.

---

## Review Questions

---

1. It is illegal for a pesticide user to store pesticides near food, drinks and pet food.

TRUE

FALSE

2. When storing pesticides, choose the storage site carefully. Name three places where pesticides should **never** be stored.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name two important factors to consider when choosing a **site** to store pesticides.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. It is important to have emergency equipment close by in the chemical storage area. For this reason, a set of protective clothing and equipment should always be kept **in** the storage area.

TRUE

FALSE

5. If you are planning a new pesticide storage area, the Canadian Farm Building code requires that you have:

a) a gravel floor.

b) a sealed window.

c) an entrance only from the outside.

d) a well nearby.

6. Why is it important to store pesticides in dry conditions? Give two (2) reasons.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

7. Insecticides and herbicides may be stored side by side in the storage building

TRUE

FALSE

8. Never store pesticides in any container that was previously used to hold a food or beverage.

TRUE

FALSE

9. If a pesticide container is damaged, put the pesticide in a container that is similar to the original. State the three pieces of information that must be included on the new label.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

10. In your pesticide storage area, a paper bag containing an insecticide has been damaged. What would you do to safely transfer the pesticide into another container?

11. What sign must be put on an unattended, parked vehicle that contains pesticides?

- a) Slow Moving Vehicle
- b) Do Not Trespass
- c) Emergency Telephone Number
- d) Chemical (or Pesticide) Storage Warning

12. Which Schedules of pesticides must be stored in an area used **exclusively** for pesticides?

