

Storage & Handling of Pesticides

Information on the storage and handling of pesticides is provided in the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine publication, "Storing and Using Plant Protection and Biocidal Products". Please contact the PRCD for further information.

Disposing of Empty Pesticide Containers

Information on the safe disposal of pesticide containers is provided by the Environmental Protection Agency / Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine publication, Good Practice Guide for Empty and Pesticide Containers.

- Triple rinse empty plant protection product (PPP) containers after use and wash container caps and threads
- Inspect and fully drain the triple rinsed containers
- Puncture empty PPP containers
- Purchase Farm Plastic Recycling Ltd., bags from your local Agri supplier
- Place the triple rinsed clean and punctured PPP containers and washed caps in the recycling bags
- Store bags in a safe dry place while filling
- Bring filled recycling bags to an authorised bring centre. The location and dates of the bring centres are available on www.farmplastics.ie

Where do I get more Information?

The Pesticide Registration & Control Division (PRCD) of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) is the designated competent authority with responsibility for implementing the regulatory system for pesticides, and is responsible for all aspects relating to their approval, marketing and use in Ireland. The PRCD also publishes a list of pesticides authorised for use in this country. The approved products database is updated daily or weekly and is available online at:

<http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/db.htm>

Annual and quarterly reports are also published. The Product Database contains details of registered plant protection products. It can be searched by Product Name, Active Substance or Function/Crop. The labels and information supplied with pesticides often specify measures to reduce aquatic exposure, e.g. a buffer zone of a particular width. It is a legal requirement to comply with buffer zones specified on product labels.

For more information please contact:

Pesticide Registration & Control Division (PRCD) of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) Phone : (01) 615 7552 or email: pcs@agriculture.gov.ie

Offaly County Council Environment and Water Services Section Phone: (057) 93 57403 or email: Environandwaterservices@offalycoco.ie



Pesticides Reducing the risk of water pollution

Offaly County Council
Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí



Pesticide Guidance Note

How pesticides can enter our drinking waters and the aquatic environment.

Pesticides can enter rivers and streams or ground water bodies used as sources for drinking water supplies through direct application, run-off, aerial drift, or by seeping through the soil. Point source emissions can also rise from the mixing, filling, loading and spillages of pesticides. Very small amounts of a pesticide entering a water body in a catchment has the potential to cause exceedances of the drinking water standard at locations that are many kilometres from the point of entry.

Special care should be taken when handling and applying pesticides and when disposing of their containers.



Safe Guard Zones

Users of pesticides should comply with the requirements in The European Communities (Sustainable Use of Pesticides) Regulations, 2012 (S.I. No. 155 of 2012).

Specially designated areas and safeguard zones around water sources within which pesticides may not be applied are specified in these Regulations.

For most of County Offaly's public water sources, (open boreholes, open wells, springs and surface water abstractions) the safeguard zone is 200 meters.

Pesticide Application

Because of the potential to pollute drinking water sources, caution should be exercised in the handling and application of pesticides. Be aware of the location of water bodies including the location of drinking water abstraction points when handling and applying pesticides.

DO:

- Follow the label instructions
- Make sure to comply with any buffer zones mentioned on the product label
- Carry out all handling operations well away from water bodies and drains
- Take great care to avoid spills. Consider using a covered area and a containment system.
- Maintain application equipment in good order.
- Keep the spray boom as low as possible
- Check the sprayer regularly for drips or leaks
- Wash sprayers out in the field where the pesticide has been applied
- Spray headlands last and avoid travelling over land that has just been sprayed.
- Maintain a grassed buffer strip to protect vulnerable water bodies.

DON'T:

- Apply pesticides if heavy rain is forecast
- Apply to saturated or frozen ground
- Apply to dry cracked soils
- Apply to poorly draining wet soils
- Apply in windy conditions
- Fill spray tanks directly from a water body
- Exceed the maximum allowed dose for the area