

Spotlight On Safety

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Pesticide Storage

Pesticide storage facilities must meet minimum requirements to prevent accidental releases to the environment and protect the safety of personnel working within them. The following guidelines are intended to assist personnel in designing and using pesticide storage areas for agricultural use.

Storage Facilities

- Storage facilities must be securely locked when not in use to prevent unauthorized access
- Storage areas must be kept clean and uncluttered
- Floor drains are prohibited (prevents accidental release into the sewer system)
- Floors and shelves must be impervious to moisture (concrete floors and wooden shelves must be sealed with latex or epoxy paint to facilitate cleaning)
- Shelves must have edges that act as secondary containment for spills
- Facilities must be ventilated by rotary vents or mechanical ventilation to prevent respiratory exposure (a strong pesticide odor indicates the need for better ventilation)
- Adequate electrical or natural lighting must be provided
- If pesticides are mixed at the facility, potable water must be provided for
 - Readily accessible emergency showers and eyewashes located near the facility, and
 - Washing of hands and face (applies to Category I and II pesticides only). Soap and towels must also be made available
- Signs from any direction of probable approach shall be posted around all storage areas and shall be of such size that is readable at a distance of 25 feet and be substantially as follows:
DANGER
POISON STORAGE AREA
ALL UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS KEEP OUT
KEEP DOOR LOCKED WHEN NOT IN USE
- The name, address, and phone number of nearest emergency medical facility must be posted prominently at the worksite
- The storage area must include:
 - Required PPE
 - A spill kit
 - A fire extinguisher

Storage Containers

- Pesticide containers must be stored in a secured manner to keep them from tipping over
- **Never** store pesticides in any containers of a type commonly used for food, drink, or household products
- Pesticides in pressurized containers must be stored and transported within the temperature range stated on manufacturing labels
- Triple-rinse, puncture and drain empty containers before discarding. Rinse containers according to Rinse and Drain Procedures at Title 3 CCR §6684

Storage Practices

- Insecticides and fungicides must not be stored on the same shelves as herbicides to prevent unintended cross-contamination
- Open bags of pesticides must be enclosed in properly labeled secondary containment to prevent the material from spilling
- Pesticides must not be stored directly on the floor unless in secondary containment

Labeling

- Any container in storage that holds a pesticide must have secured to it a copy of the original pesticide label. The EPA Pesticide Product Label System (PPLS) can be used to find pesticide product labels
- If primary containers are damaged, secondary containers must be provided to prevent leakage and labeled with:
 - The identity of the pesticide in the container
 - The word "Danger," "Warning," or "Caution," in accordance with the label on the original container
- Experimental pesticides and/or those being used under "blind" conditions must carry a label equivalent, including:
 - Pesticide name or code number
 - Type (insecticide/ herbicide/ rodenticide, etc.)
 - Crop
 - Hazards
 - Required protective equipment
 - Date of receipt and date of experiment termination
 - Custodian name
 - The words "**FOR EXPERIMENTAL USE ONLY**"
- Any diluted pesticide (spray rigs) must be labeled with:
 - Name of pesticide
 - Signal Word (Danger/Warning/Caution)
 - Custodian name
 - Custodian phone number
 - Date of dilution

Transportation

- Pesticides must not be transported or stored in the passenger area of vehicles, or in the same compartment with persons, food or feed.
- Pesticide containers shall be secured to vehicles during transportation to prevent spills onto the vehicle or off the vehicle. Paper, cardboard, and similar containers shall be covered when necessary to protect them from moisture
- Hazardous materials must be transported in University vehicles, not in personal vehicles

Visit www.ehs.ucr.edu for additional information or call EH&S at 951-827-5528 if you have any questions.