



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS COLLECTION CENTER

FACT SHEET

Pesticides and Herbicides

Hazards

- Pesticides and herbicides are designed to be toxic to pests and can harm birds, fish, pets and humans if misused.
- If lawn chemicals, pesticides or herbicides are used in larger doses than recommended on the label, runoff can have an adverse effect on drinking water supplies and the environment.

Handling

- Avoid buying more product than you need, as it is likely to become waste at a later date.
- Store pesticides and herbicides in original containers that are closed and labeled, in a secure area out of reach of children and pets. Avoid storing pesticides in damp areas where containers may become moist or rusty. Pesticides and herbicides should **NOT** be stored near food.
- Follow label instructions strictly about where and how much to apply.
- **DO NOT** put pesticides or herbicides in the trash or down the drain.
- Use rubber gloves when handling pesticides and herbicides and use an appropriate cartridge mask if using products extensively.
- **DO NOT** use or give away banned pesticides/herbicides or pesticides/herbicides that are no longer registered for use. To find out whether a product is no longer registered for use in Massachusetts, contact the state Pesticide Bureau at 617-626-1700 or review its web site - <http://www.mass.gov/agr/pesticides/registration/index.htm>.
- For questions on specific pesticides and environmentally friendly products and procedures, such as Integrated Pest Management, contact the state Pesticide Bureau.
- For more information on identifying pesticides, their health hazards, and use and Management guidelines, call the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network at 800-858-7378 or visit its web site <http://npic.orst.edu/>.

Management Options

Banned or Unregistered Pesticides/Herbicides:

- If the pesticide is banned or no longer registered for use, save in original container and take it to a Household Hazardous Products Collection Center.

Registered Pesticides/Herbicides:

- If the product is still registered for use, use up according to directions on the label or donate it to a friend or neighbor who can use it.
- If you no longer have a use for the product and are not able to give it away, take it to a Household Hazardous Products Collection Center.

Empty Containers:

- **DO NOT** recycle or reuse pesticide containers.
- Empty containers should be triple rinsed and then disposed of in the trash. Take the following steps to triple rinse a container:
 - Fill the empty pesticide container with cold water and use the rinse water as if it were full-strength product, in accordance with the label instructions.
 - Repeat this procedure two more times.
 - **DO NOT** pour rinse water down the drain.
 - Once the container is empty and triple rinsed, it can be wrapped in newspaper and disposed of in the trash.
- **DO NOT** triple rinse containers for banned or unregistered pesticides. Take these to a Household Hazardous Products Collection Center.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

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