

Prevention

The best way to prevent stockpiling future obsolete pesticides is to buy the right product only in quantities needed to do a given job.

Here's how:

- Know your pest. Not sure? Call the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's Pest Management Office, 1-800-287-0279.
- Make sure the product you buy controls the pest. If the pest is not listed on a product's label, the product's not for you!
- Avoid volume and buy-one-get-one-free promotions. The dollar or two saved today can cost hundreds later in hazardous waste disposal costs. Surplus pesticides can be a storage problem as well.
- Keep products in good condition. Don't let liquids freeze or moisture damage dry materials.

- Give recently purchased pesticides you no longer need to someone who does. The best way to dispose of a pesticide is to use it according to its labeled directions.



Who to call

Mainers are fortunate to have expert resources at their fingertips for information on pests and pesticides. Whether you need to know what's bugging your garden, how to clean up a pesticide spill or respond to a poisoning, or simply further information on obsolete pesticide disposal, you will want to know who to call.



1-800-287-0279

The latest information on pests and pest control recommendations.



1-800-482-0777

Pesticide and other hazardous materials spill response.



Maine Medical Center
Poison Control Center

1-800-222-1222

24-hour hotline for information on poisoning.



1-207-287-2731

Information on obsolete pesticide disposal or any pesticide matter.

OLD, UNUSABLE PESTICIDE

COLLECTION PROGRAM

disposal that's
SAFE RESPONSIBLE FREE

While few people see their homes or backyards as hazardous waste sites, that's just where hazardous waste in the form of old, unusable or "obsolete" pesticides are found.

DDT, dioxin-laced 2,4,5-T and compounds of arsenic, mercury or lead—all marvels in their day—are banned today because of their hazards to human health, wildlife or to the environment.

Because federal law prohibits sale and use of obsolete pesticides, many Mainers are caught in a dilemma. Obsolete pesticides cannot be transported or disposed of without expensive permits and a federally licensed disposal facility willing to accept them.

Besides being illegal, disposing of obsolete pesticides in trash, sewers or by burial threatens ground water, a primary source or drinking water. They also pose risks to sanitation workers, passersby and wildlife.

The program

The Board of Pesticides Control (BPC) and the Department of Environmental Protection provide citizens with a responsible, free solution to their obsolete pesticide problem.

Once a year, these agencies collect obsolete pesticides brought to sites across Maine. The materials are then shipped to out-of-state disposal facilities.

Only banned pesticides and pesticides that have become caked, frozen or otherwise rendered unusable can be accepted. Pesticides that can be used legally are not eligible for collection.

The program is available to homeowners as well as non-corporate farmers and greenhouse operators. Others should contact the BPC for arrangements.



Without this free collection program, disposal of a pint of DDT could cost the homeowner hundreds of dollars.

How to participate

- 1 Contact the BPC and request an Obsolete Pesticide Inventory Form.
- 2 On this form, identify pesticide active ingredients shown on each product's label. Unidentified products without labels or markings should also be described in as much detail as possible.
- 3 Store obsoletes properly until the next annual collection drive. The BPC will contact you several weeks prior to that drive to inform you of your local collection date and location. Can't make an upcoming drive? No problem...the BPC will keep your name on file for the next collection.
- 4 After your inventory form is received, the BPC will mail a map and instructions 10 days before your collection date.
- 5 Bring your obsoletes to the assigned site. Once there, stay in your vehicle and present shipping papers to officials. They will direct you to place obsoletes in an appropriate receptacle.

Proper storage before collection

Until you are able to take advantage of the collection program, sound storage practice remains the best—and only—way to prevent an environmental or health crisis from occurring in your backyard.

- Keep pesticides high, dry and locked up away from children and pets.
- Dry materials should be free of moisture, wrapped in heavy duty plastic bags.



- Liquid materials in glass bottles in good condition require no special attention other than to store beyond reach of children.
- Rusting metal cans must be wrapped in plastic bags and placed into rubber or plastic trash containers. Surround wrapped pesticides with kitty litter, newspaper, vermiculite or other absorbent material. Be sure secondary containers have labels identifying contents.
- If a bottle, bag or other container leaks, call the Department of Environmental Protection for advice on proper cleanup.

Transporting safely



- Dry materials must be wrapped in plastic bags and placed in cardboard cartons or plastic buckets. Liquids must be put into plastic containers with newspaper.
- Never transport pesticides in the cab or interior of your vehicle. Use the truck's bed or the car's trunk.
- Be sure to attach labels to containers. Unlabeled materials will not be accepted at the collection site.
- Brace items in your vehicle's bed or trunk to prevent shifting while en route.
- Cover loads in open-bed trucks in case of rain.
- Sign both copies of the "shipping papers." Keep one copy in the vehicle and the other on yourself in case an accident requires you leave the vehicle and inform authorities. Note phone numbers for fire and police.
- Drive directly to the pesticide collection site after you load your vehicle.
- Drive carefully, please! You are responsible for any spills and their subsequent clean up and restoration costs.