

Pesticides Safety Directorate

http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/garden_home.asp

About the Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD)	Food Safety	Reducing Environmental Impact	Using Pesticides
PSD is an executive agency of Defra. We ensure that pesticides in the UK are safe for users, consumers and the environment.	PSD seeks to help to ensure pesticide residues in food are not at levels which may cause harm.	PSD supports and encourages efforts to reduce the environmental impact of pesticides in the UK.	PSD provides information on the correct and effective use of pesticides including use in the home and garden.
This guide on Storage & Disposal of pesticides (COPR 97 Regulations) has been compiled from information freely available on the PSD web site by Crediton Town Council – www.crediton.gov.uk .			

Storing pesticides

- After you have used the pesticide, make sure that the packaging is tightly closed or sealed.
- Store any unused pesticide in a safe secure place, away from pets and children. Garden sheds and greenhouses are not ideal for storing pesticides as they can get very hot in summer or cold in winter. Pesticide products are best stored at an even temperature.
- Take particular care to use and store slug pellets safely, so as to avoid accidentally poisoning pets – particularly dogs.
- Pesticide containers that have held concentrated product (i.e requiring dilution for use) can be rinsed properly and placed in household waste. The container should be rinsed three times adding the washings to the final spray solution.
- Pesticide containers that have held Ready-to-Use product (i.e trigger sprays) can be disposed of directly into your household waste.

When the job is finished, **always** wash your hands before you do anything else.

Disposing of pesticides

Never pour waste pesticide down the drain.

- If you store it carefully, any remaining pesticide will be effective for some years to come (unless the manufacturer withdraws it). Check whether you can still legally use it by visiting our Garden Pesticides Search at <https://secure.pesticides.gov.uk/garden/prodsearch.asp>.
- Whether you've diluted it or not, it is illegal to put any pesticide down a main drain or any other waste-water drainage system because of the risk of directly contaminating water sources.
- Unwanted pesticide at Ashley & Punchbowl civic amenity sites.

Open all year round (except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day)	Summer (Apr - Sep)	Winter (Oct - Mar)
Monday - Friday	8:00am - 6:00pm	8:00am - 4:30pm
Saturday and Sunday	10:00am - 6:00pm	10:00am - 4:30pm

- To dispose of large amounts of undiluted pesticide, you should contact your local authority for advice. You will find their number in the phone book.

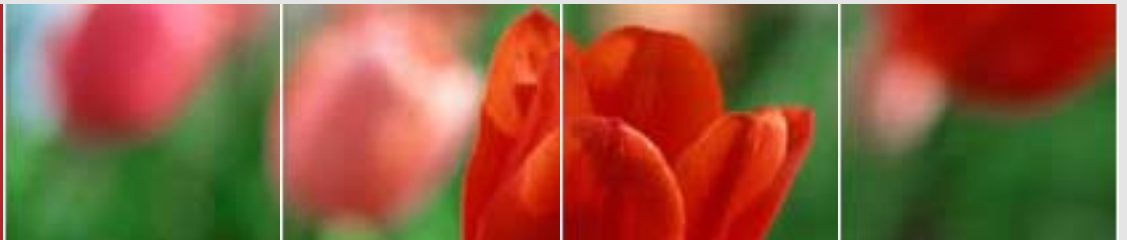
Pesticides (like other household products) can harm the environment if they are not disposed of properly. Gardeners and allotment holders need to dispose of pesticides and pesticide packaging carefully.

Avoiding the Problem

This sounds difficult. Is there an easier way ? Yes - avoid creating pesticides waste in the first place.

- Only use pesticides when you really need to
- Only buy what than you can use up in a year

Mix up only what you need at one time



Disposing of Unwanted Pesticides

Don't put pesticides down the sink, toilet or down drains

- The smallest trace of pesticides makes water unacceptable for human consumption. Water companies use expensive processes (and more chemicals) to remove them.
- Pesticides in water are a risk to creatures that live in or near water. Even very tiny amounts can kill or injure fish and insects.

Don't put pesticides in your bin unless the label says you can

- Nearly all pesticides are classed as hazardous waste.
- Hazardous waste goes to special sites for safe disposal. Normal landfill sites do not have enough protection to stop hazardous waste leaking into the wider environment, particularly water.
- Hazardous waste is not safe in incinerators designed for normal waste. Pesticides can give off poisonous or foul smelling fumes, or can be too inflammable to burn safely in normal incinerators.
- Containers could burst/break and expose bin collectors
- Only put a pesticide in your bin if the label says you can

Don't put pesticides on a garden bonfire

- Pesticides can give off poisonous or foul smelling fumes when burnt and so can the containers they come in
- Some pesticides are too inflammable to burn safely.

Do dispose of pesticides through your local council

- All local councils have to make arrangements for disposing of hazardous household waste.
- Many local authorities have a special place for hazardous household waste at a Civic Amenity Site or Recycling Centre.
- Pesticides (and other chemicals) are securely put to one side and disposed of safely later, usually in special high temperature incinerators that destroy them completely.
- The Pesticides Action Network has put together details of disposal facilities in Great Britain.

How can I tell if a pesticide is approved?

- Look up the pesticide using our garden search. Its best to search by MAPP (or MAFF) number (this is on the label) rather than by the trade name. Older versions of products with a different number might have the same name, but no longer be approved.
- Ask the manufacturer. The label might give you a helpline number.
- Ask us. We will need to know the product name, MAPP (or MAFF) number, active ingredient, and manufacturer/distributor. It may take us a few days to get back to you.

I accidentally kept/used a pesticide after its approval ran out. Will I be taken to court?

It is against the law to store or use an unapproved pesticide: the maximum fine for any offence under pesticides legislation is £5000. Your local council is responsible for prosecutions relating to private homes so it would be up to them what action to take. Local councils do understand that home gardeners do not follow pesticides news in the same way as farmers and other professional users.

The law on disposing of pesticides also applies to unapproved pesticides, so you should still follow advice on disposal.

Disposing of other Pesticide Waste

Can I put empty pesticides wrappers or containers into my bin ?

Yes. Empty bottles/jars of concentrates (pesticides you dilute with water for use) need to be rinsed out three times first. Empty "ready to use" containers can go straight in the bin.

How should I wash out containers ?

Put water into a container or applicator, then add the washings to the product before you spray.

Can I put empty pesticide containers on my garden bonfire ?

No. Plastics and other packaging materials may not burn well and might give off unpleasant fumes.