

Think Smart About Pesticides

How to dispose of unwanted and outdated pesticides, herbicides, & fertilizers



Wondering what to do with those old and unused pesticides?

Chemicals in the Clackamas

Keep em' out! Pesticides are a concern in the Clackamas watershed. Water samples collected by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) between 2000-2005 and water quality monitoring by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) since 2005 in the Clackamas River and its tributaries, have found pesticides present with some exceedances of water quality standards.

Pesticides enter and pollute our waterways through soil leaching, flooding, surface and groundwater runoff. These chemicals not only contaminate our drinking water but can also hurt non-target organisms such as plants, birds, beneficial insects, fish and other aquatic life. In addition, these substances can also interfere with the operation of our wastewater treatment systems. Proper use, handling, storage, and disposal of pesticides can reduce risks of contamination of our rivers, lakes, and even the air. Choosing safer alternative products whenever you can will help protect the health and safety of you, your family, and our natural areas. For natural gardening tips, visit:

www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-living/yard-and-garden.

One of the easiest ways to safely dispose of pesticides is to use them up according to label instructions. Also, check your inventory before buying more to avoid excess product. If you have any leftovers, share them with friends, neighbors, or charitable groups. And don't keep pesticides more than two years old. For other ways to get rid of unwanted or outdated pesticides, **see reverse side for disposal resources.**

Hazardous Waste

We're all guilty of it — all those household products that pile up year to year under our sinks, in the garden shed, basement or garage. Yet these common products used in our homes and yards can harm people, pets, fish, wildlife and the health of our waterways. Many of these materials are considered [Household Hazardous Waste](#) (HHW) because they contain potentially dangerous chemicals that when disposed of improperly, can pose significant hazards to human health and the environment. These products will contain "signal words" on their labels such as: danger, corrosive, flammable, toxic, poisonous, combustible, or explosive. Reading labels before purchasing and using a product is essential.

Common hazardous products include:

- ◆ Pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and poisons
- ◆ Paints and stains
- ◆ Solvents and thinners
- ◆ Corrosives
- ◆ Fuels and propane tanks
- ◆ Automotive fluids and antifreeze
- ◆ Mercury-containing products (fluorescent light bulbs)
- ◆ Batteries
- ◆ Fire extinguishers
- ◆ Household cleaners and disinfectants
- ◆ Aerosol spray products
- ◆ Pool and spa chemicals
- ◆ Art and hobby chemicals
- ◆ Sharps (medical needle syringes)

All of the above types of hazardous materials and others should never be poured or dumped down the sink, into the toilet, on the ground, down a sewer or street drain, or put in your garbage can. Do not burn, bury, or mix.



Where to safely dispose of hazardous waste

Garbage, recycling, household hazardous waste (HHW) or organics can be taken year-round to Metro's hazardous waste facilities located at:

- ◆ Metro South Transfer Station — 2001 Washington St., Oregon City
- ◆ Metro Central Transfer Station — 6161 NW 61st Ave., Portland

For questions, call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000. Additional information, including fees can be found at www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-living/garbage-and-recycling. Also refer to the "The Hazardless Home Handbook" at http://library.oregonmetro.gov/files/hazardless_home_handbook_2006.pdf for helpful tips. If you live outside the Metro tri-county area, call 1-800-RECYCLE (1-800-732-9253) about hazardous waste facilities or HHW collection events in your community. Contact your local garbage hauler, local government solid waste department, or DEQ.

Metro also hosts free household hazardous waste collection events from March through November across the Portland metropolitan area which includes communities in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties. Though there is no charge to bring toxic trash, there is a 35-gallon limit per load and no containers should be larger than 5 gallons. Materials should be prepared and transported properly (see below) to minimize risks to you and others from accidental spills or mixing of dangerous materials. More information, including a schedule of **Neighborhood Collection Events** can be viewed online at www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-living/garbage-and-recycling/neighborhood-collection-events.

How to prepare hazardous materials

Keep products in original containers with labels intact or label contents yourself to ensure that materials are safely and correctly disposed of by staff. Products should never be mixed as dangerous reactions can occur between materials. Prevent leaks and spills by sealing all containers. To properly seal, use a secondary leak-proof container to secure a leaking container. Do not use plastic bags. When transporting, store materials away from the driver, passengers, or pets. Use sturdy boxes to pack containers in the trunk of your vehicle. (Note: containers, boxes, and gasoline cans will not be returned to you).

Disposal of household pesticides and fertilizers

Pesticides (insect, rodent and weed killers, and fungicides): If not banned, expired, or restricted (check with OSU County Extension Office), the best way to dispose of pesticides is to use them up or give away to a responsible party. Empty pesticide containers can be triple-rinsed with water (if made of plastic or glass or with plastic foil liners). Use the rinse water that now includes pesticide residue as regular strength pesticide and refer to label directions. After wrapping the empty container in newspaper, dispose of in the garbage. Unwanted pesticides should be taken to a hazardous waste facility or collection event.

Fertilizers (chemical): It's best to use up or give away. If a fertilizer does not contain pesticides (does not say "weed" or "weed killer" anywhere), empty containers or packaging can be disposed of in the garbage. Leftover fertilizers can be placed in a heavy-duty plastic bag before disposal. Follow pesticide directions above for fertilizers that contain pesticides.



Do not dispose of HHW at curbside!



Round up those pesticides & fertilizers for proper disposal!



Clackamas River
Basin Council

This fact sheet was developed by CRBC and was made possible through funding from the Clackamas River Water Providers.



Resources and References

Clackamas County
<http://www.clackamas.us/recycling/>
Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)
www.conservationsdistrict.org
Clackamas River Basin Council
www.clackamasriver.org
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/>
Metro
<http://www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-living>
National Pesticide Information Center at Oregon State University
<http://npic.orst.edu/>
Oregon Department of Agriculture
<http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PEST/pages/disposal.aspx>
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
<http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/hhw/index.htm>
Oregon State University County Extension Office
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/>