

Whether you are a homeowner, producer or applicator of pesticide, there are basic safe storage rules to follow:

1. Keep pesticides, other poisons, and related materials locked in a cabinet, room or separate building designated solely for the storage of these materials. Metal storage cabinets, such as discarded school lockers, provide excellent storage for homeowners or other users of small amounts of pesticides.
2. Post the facilities with a sign:
**"PESTICIDES-
POISONS, KEEP
OUT"**, or similar signs.
3. Control access to this facility to only one, two, or three highly trusted, responsible and informed individuals.
4. Never store pesticides where food, feed, seed, fertilizers or other products can become contaminated.
5. Store pesticides in their original containers. It's the law.
6. The facility should be reasonably fireproof and well-ventilated. Temperatures should be kept between freezing and 100 degrees F.
7. Sealed concrete floors, concrete block walls and metal shelves are recommended over wooden structures.
8. With shelf storage, store dry pesticides on the top shelves, liquids on the lower shelves.
9. Electrical fixtures should be of the dust-and explosion-proof type.
10. Provide adequate space for the secure storage of empty pesticide containers until proper disposal of them is possible.



3. A drainage system should be built to collect any tank rinsing water or spoils. This material should be treated as surplus pesticide and must be disposed of properly, according to label instructions.
4. A water supply should be furnished, not only for mixing, loading, tank rinsing and cleanup, but for showers and cleanup for the persons who mix, load and apply the pesticides.
5. Fire detectors and fire fighting equipment should be available.
6. A telephone should be convenient, with all emergency numbers posted.
7. A current inventory of all materials in storage, along with a label of all materials, should be maintained in a secure area away from the storage area. The local fire department should be provided with an updated copy of this inventory.
8. Equip the storage area with all personal protective equipment and materials to prevent accidents and to handle accidents and spills. Activated charcoal, absorptive clay, vermiculite, clay-granule type cat litter or sawdust are good materials to absorb liquid spills.
9. Date and identify all pesticides when they are placed into storage, and store no more than will be needed for one season. Establish a policy of first-in, first-used, so that pesticides do not become outdated.
10. Have your fire insurance carrier inspect your pesticide storage facility periodically -- it is intelligent management and may reduce your insurance premium.

Many pesticide storage facilities are inadequate, dangerous and lack security. On page 7 is a plan for constructing a safe pesticide storage building. If drains are installed in the building or in the mixing/loading platform out-of-doors this drain water must be captured and not allowed to enter ground or surface water. Copies of this plan (EX6346 Pesticide Storage Building) are available from the Cooperative Extension Service.

Those businesses with large quantities of pesticides to store should have a separate building for this purpose. In addition to the above features, this building should also include the following characteristics.

1. When feasible, the building should be downwind and downhill from sensitive areas, such as homes, play areas, feedlots, animal shelters, gardens and ground water sources.
2. The building should be located in an area not subject to flooding.

Mixing and Loading

Mixing and loading of pesticides are among the most dangerous tasks involving work with these products, because it is at this time that people are working with open containers of concentrated pesticides.