

Several proven closed-system, "jet-rinse" devices are marketed, which spray water into a pesticide container under pressure and transfer the rinse into the spray tank. These are adequate if the directions for use are followed.

After triple-rinsing or jet-rinsing, replace and tighten the closures on 30-and 55-gallon drums which are to be returned to the manufacturer or to a drum recycling company. **Do not reuse these drums for any other purpose.** They should be kept in secure storage until shipment.

Other metal containers and glass and plastic containers should be punctured or crushed after they are triple-rinsed, to prevent reuse. These containers are now solid waste and can be transported to a State-approved sanitary landfill. The sanitary landfill may require you to complete an indemnification agreement to verify that the containers have been triple- or jet-rinsed. Do not attempt to triple-rinse or puncture empty aerosol cans. They should be buried or disposed of at a sanitary landfill.

Empty pesticide containers may be buried on the property where used. They are not to be transported to another property for burial unless it is a state-approved sanitary landfill. Farmers can bury triple-rinsed containers on their own property. They should be buried a minimum of 18 inches deep, but well above the ground water table, never in wetlands or sinkholes. Permission should be obtained from the landowner before burying containers on rented property. Non-farmers who bury empty pesticide containers on their own property must notify their local Department of Environmental Regulation of such burial.

One final problem exists. All the mixed pesticides and pesticide containers have been disposed of properly. Now what do you do with the wash water from the final cleaning of the sprayer tank, boom and nozzles and from washing down of the external surfaces of the sprayer and personal protective equipment? Do not allow this rinse water to contaminate the soil or enter a water supply. The best solution is to wash down the equipment, capture the rinse water and place this rinse water into the spray tank. Next, refill the spray tank with water, (this mix will have an extremely low concentration of pesticide material) and spray this material onto an area for which the pesticide is labeled, such as in the field just sprayed.

Research is presently being conducted into the feasibility of using pesticide degradation and/or evaporation systems for pesticide rinse waters, but the effectiveness of these methods is still under study.

Accidental Spills

Accidental spills can happen in transport, in storage or in the mixing, loading or application activities. Many labels describe what actions should be taken should a spill occur; if the label contains such directions, follow them.

The following are practices to handle with all spills: Secure the accident scene. Keep people and animals away. Equip the clean-up personnel with protective equipment. Keep the spill from spreading. Control the spill by banking with soil, or by absorbing the liquid. Never hose down a contaminated area. Notify the local police or fire department of serious spills immediately, particularly if the spill is in a public or populated area.

