

## Are You Prepared to Store Your Pesticides Safely and Securely?

If pesticides will be used in your operation, you will need to have an appropriate pesticide storage area where you will keep these products safe and secure. Before purchasing pesticides, become familiar with the rules, regulations, and recommendations for safe and secure pesticide storage and ensure that you have a suitable storage area ready.

- Decide where you will store your pesticides. Do you have an existing space that is suitable? Will you need to build or renovate a space?
- How much product will you be storing? Depending on the amount of storage space you will need, you might dedicate a room or a shed to pesticide storage, or you may need only a storage bin or cabinet.
- However you store your pesticide products, venting will be an important consideration. If your storage space is more than a total of 15 cubic feet (25,920 cubic inches), the area must be vented to the outdoors to prevent buildup of toxic fumes. Even if you use choose to store your products in multiple small storage lockers, you must provide ventilation to the outdoors if the aggregate area of all lockers is more than 15 cubic feet.
- Your storage area must remain dry. Standing water or high humidity will not only reduce the shelf life of many products, but can contribute to spills and contamination as bags and other packages break down from exposure to moisture.
- As a general rule, pesticides should be stored at temperatures between 40°F and 100°F. Always check the storage requirements on your product labels. If the label of any of your products indicates a more specific storage temperature requirement, you must adhere to that label requirement.
- Some product labels include precautions against freezing. If your storage room is unheated, you are allowed to temporarily store those products in an alternate heated location during the freezing months of the year (as long as this is not prohibited by label instructions). Specific rules apply to where and how you temporarily store pesticides during freezing months.
- Locate your storage area away from wells and surface waters. The setbacks for pesticide storage are a minimum of 400' from public wells, 75' from private wells, and 75' from the high water mark of all surface waters including streams, ponds, and wetlands.
- When possible, storage areas should be down gradient from wells and surface waters to minimize risk of water contamination.



### Fast Facts

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- Local codes building codes must be followed when designing a pesticide storage area. Check with your local government about any local fire suppression system requirements.
- The floor of your storage area must be smooth so that spills can be easily cleaned up. You might use sealed concrete, plastic, or another appropriate material, but dirt and gravel are not allowed. Floor drains are also not permitted.
- You may choose to install a catch basin in the floor of your facility. This low point in the floor is used to collect spills, washwater, and rinsate. The catch basin must be watertight and non-corrodible and must be constructed in a way that allows for complete recovery of a spill and allows the basin to be easily cleaned. There cannot be pipes attached to the catch basin, and there must be a mechanism in place allowing for the basin to be emptied into an above ground storage container within one hour of a spill or discharge.
- You will need to post an appropriate sign on your storage area door, clearly indicating that pesticides are in storage. The sign must include the words “Warning”, “Danger”, or “Pesticides” in lettering at least 1.5” in height, and this must be followed by wording indicating that pesticides are in storage. Compliant pesticide storage signs are readily available for purchase from many suppliers.
- Let your crew/staff that pesticides are being stored at your site. You’ll need to have 911 displayed at a central location such as a breakroom.
- You’ll also need to notify your local fire department to let them know that you have pesticides in storage. Let them know the general location of the storage area so that they can respond appropriately to any emergencies.
- Dormant oil products (as long as they contain no other pesticide ingredients) do not need to be stored in a secured storage area, but they do need to be tightly sealed in clean labeled containers. Rules regarding setbacks and spills apply as they do with any pesticide.
- Mini-bulk containers are containers that hold more than 55 gallons of product, but less than 300 gallons. They are meant to be mobile and used up quickly (within 90 days). Mini-bulks do not need to be stored in a secured room, but they must be tightly sealed and must be labeled appropriately and legibly by the product dealer/distributor. Rules regarding setbacks and spills apply as they do with any pesticide.



## Fast Facts

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Check your local codes building code when planning your storage area.

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Notify your local fire department that you have pesticides in storage.

**SUPERVISORS: Consider posting page 3 of this document near your pesticide storage area or in a central location, such a break room.**

## Safe Pesticide Storage is Everyone's Responsibility

**Everyone** who handles pesticides has an obligation to ensure that pesticide storage rules are adhered to. If you see violations of any of the rules below, remedy the situation or report the situation to the person responsible for maintaining the storage area.

- The storage area must remain secured so it is not readily accessible to children or public.
- Sufficient lighting must be available so that containers and labels can be seen clearly.
- The storage room must be kept clean.
- All containers must be tightly sealed and cannot have leaks, corrosion, breaks, or tears.
- Any spills or leaks must be cleaned up promptly, at least by the end of the day.
- The storage area must not contain any food, feed, seed, livestock remedies, drugs, plants, or other materials that could be contaminated by spills, leaks, or volatilization.
- All containers must have legible labels attached. This can be the original full label or a copy of the full label. Service containers may be labeled with abbreviated information (see Pes 504.01).
- Empty pesticide containers must be stored under the same rules as full containers until they are triple rinsed.
- Pesticide labels include storage requirements. Read the labels of all products you are using and follow any specific storage requirements noted.



Although not requirements of NH or federal law, the following guidelines are recommended to help ensure safety.

- Store dry products above liquids.
- Store similar products together: herbicides with herbicides, fungicides with fungicides, etc.
- Secure storage of fertilizers away from pesticides.
- Do not store pesticides in any food container or container that might be mistaken for food or drink.
- Use plastic trays or other secondary containment to hold products and collect spills and leaks.

UNH Extension's Pesticide Education Program provides educational resources and training programs for private and commercial pesticide applicator certification.

### Contact Information

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