

Garden Safety

Used and stored properly, pesticides and fertilizers can be a safe and valuable addition in the arsenal of strategies for a beautiful garden. Always observe the following use and storage rules.

The label is the law. Only apply any product in accordance with the application method and the type of plants listed on the label.

Buy only enough products to carry you through the current season.

If you are storing pesticides, store them out of reach of children and pets as soon as you bring them home and immediately after each use. A locked cabinet in a well-ventilated utility area or garden shed is best.

Store flammable liquids outside living quarters and away from an ignition source (hot water heater, automobile, etc.)

Never put pesticides in cabinets with or near food supplies or cleaning materials. Always store pesticides in their original containers complete with labels that list ingredients, directions for use, and antidotes in case of accidental poisoning. Apply transparent tape over the label to keep it legible. Never store pesticides in a container that children may associate with something to eat or drink.

Always properly refasten childproof closures or lids.

Avoid storing pesticides in places where flooding is possible, or in places where they might spill or leak into the environment.

Disposal

Follow label directions for guidance on product and container disposal.

To dispose of less than a full container of liquid pesticide, leave it in the original container with the cap securely in place to prevent spills or leaks. Dispose of according to your municipality's hazardous materials regulations.

Wrap individual packages of dry pesticide formulations in several layers of newspaper or place in a tight carton or bag and tape it closed. Dispose of in accordance with your municipality's hazardous materials regulations.

Empty pesticide containers can be as hazardous as full ones because of residue remaining inside. Handle as above.

Do not burn pesticide boxes or sacks either outdoors or in apartment incinerators since this can create poisonous fumes or gases.

Never pour leftover pesticides down any drain or storm sewer.

Puncture any non-pressurized containers before disposal to prevent re-use.