

# PESTICIDE DISPOSAL THE RIGHT WAY

A Factsheet From Midwest Pesticide Action Center



Pesticides are hazardous to our health and the environment. They are also household hazardous waste and must be disposed of properly to prevent contamination of our water, soil, and air and damage to our health and the health of the environment. Most states offer hazardous waste collection sites and/or events for environmentally sound disposal of toxic chemicals like pesticides. Read on to learn more about best practices for getting rid of YOUR unwanted pesticides.

**DO NOT:** There are few practices that are not a good idea when preparing for disposal. Here are a few.

**Do not pour pesticides down the sink, into the toilet, or down a sewer or street drain.** Sewage treatment plants aren't designed to remove all toxic chemicals from wastewater, and when pesticides enter our rivers and streams they are harmful to fish, plants, and wildlife.

**Do not re-use containers.** Containers may contain traces of pesticides even after rinsing which can be harmful to children, pets, and you. To properly recycle containers that formerly held pesticides, see the sites and dates for Illinois' pesticide container recycling events at <http://bit.ly/1ESB7H7>

**Do not bring your pesticides to a household hazardous waste collection event or facility if you are a commercial organization.** Commercial organizations are covered by different regulations and should call the Environmental Protection Agency for current disposal requirements.



*See back page for information on disposal facilities and events.*

## Tips on Safe Storage Before Disposal:

If you have pesticides that you want to dispose of but are waiting for a collection day, here are some tips for safely storing them until they can be disposed of properly.

1. Follow storage instructions on the label: The label is the law when handling pesticides. Labels are required to have information about proper handling and storage. **READ THE LABEL!**
2. Store them so pets and children can't get to them: Store up high and preferably in a locked cabinet to prevent unwanted access.
3. Store them away from flammable areas: Many pesticides have formulations that are flammable and once burning can be very toxic if inhaled.
4. Do not store them where flooding is possible: Again, store pesticides up high to keep them out of harms way.
5. Always store them in their original containers: By storing pesticides in their original container there's less of a chance for improper use that leads to poisoning.

Midwest Pesticide Action Center is dedicated to reducing the health risks and environmental impacts of pesticides and promoting safer alternatives.

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## Where to Find Disposal Facilities and Events:

### Illinois Resources

There are several long-term household hazardous waste facilities in Northern Illinois. Some of these facilities require appointments so be sure to call ahead. If you live outside the area serviced by these facilities, call the IEPA at 217-524-3300 to learn about one-day collection events happening in your area or visit <http://1.usa.gov/1M9jOI9>

#### **City of Chicago**

1150 N. North Branch  
on Goose Island  
(312) 744-7672

#### **Naperville**

1979 Brookdale Road  
(630) 420-6095

#### **Rockford**

3333 Kishwaukee  
(815) 987-5570

#### **Gurnee**

1311 N. Estes Street  
(847) 336-9340



### Wisconsin Resources

To find permanent collection facilities or hazardous waste collection events in your area, you can consult the Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center at <http://bit.ly/1AIM577>

The Wisconsin Clean Sweep Program hosts local collection days across the state. Visit <http://1.usa.gov/1HlxQw0> for information about the program and find a collection event near you.

### Michigan Resources

The Department of Environmental Quality has compiled a list of sites that accept Household Hazardous Waste: <http://1.usa.gov/1I98VVj>

The Michigan Clean Sweep Program hosts local collection days across the state. Visit <http://1.usa.gov/1B9n4yL> to find a collection event near you.

*“Over the past sixteen years, more than 2.0 million pounds (1000 tons) of pesticides have been removed from circulation and properly disposed of via permanent collection sites through Michigan’s Clean Sweep pesticide disposal program.”*

### Indiana Resources

Check the Department of Environmental Management’s list of facilities that accept Household Hazardous Waste <http://bit.ly/1AIMJSm>

If you live by Indianapolis, check out its “ToxDrop” Program: <http://bit.ly/1eNiDD5>

### Other States

If you live outside these areas, check with your local solid waste management authority, environmental agency, or health department to find out whether your community has a household hazardous waste collection program or a similar program for getting rid of unwanted, leftover, or expired pesticides. These authorities can also inform you of any local requirements for pesticide waste disposal

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