Guidelines for Pesticide Retention and Disposal

SafetyNet #: 38

Pesticides, like other hazardous materials, tend to accumulate in storage unless diligent and on-going measures are taken to manage and dispose of them. In order to minimize accumulation of pesticides, the following guidelines should be followed.

General

- All pesticides under university control must be stored in proper pesticide storage facilities. For information on what constitutes a proper storage facility, see SafetyNet #49 [1], “Pesticide Storage.”

- **An individual should be assigned responsibility for each pesticide and its container.** The name of the person responsible should appear on the container. This individual is responsible for ensuring the container is labeled, in good condition, retained in storage only if it meets the criteria below and that it is properly disposed of or returned to the manufacturer if these standards are not met.

- Maintain Safety Data Sheet and label information on all materials being stored.

Registered Pesticides

- Only pesticides that are currently registered for use in the State of California should be kept. Pesticides without current registrations should be disposed of in accordance with appropriate regulations.

- Only pesticides in active or specifically anticipated use should be kept. Pesticides that “might be used someday,” but for which no current plan exists, should be disposed of in accordance with appropriate regulations.

- Every pesticide must be in its original container with the original label affixed, or repackaged with an original or equivalent label affixed to the new container. Unlabeled or cryptically labeled containers are not permitted.

- Repackaged pesticides must be in containers appropriate for the materials. Food containers or containers that might be confused with food containers must never be used for storing pesticides.

- Any container in which a pesticide is stored must be in sound condition. Leaking containers
should be placed in secondary containment (recovery containers) until they are properly disposed.

**Non-Registered Pesticides (research and experimental pesticides)**

- Only non-registered pesticides currently being used should be kept. Materials for which no current field trial exists should be returned to the manufacturer.

- Non-registered pesticides should not be accepted for trial or research unless the manufacturer provides the following:
  - Authorization and procedures to return unused material to the manufacturer at the completion of the trial.
  - Information equivalent to a Safety Data Sheet or label for the material. Information that must be on the label includes:
    1. Type of pesticide.
    2. Physical characteristics of the material including flammability, solubility, incompatibilities, and evaporation rates.
    3. Hazards associated with exposure to the material, including acute and long-term.
    4. Personal protective equipment required for use.
    5. Field re-entry requirements.

The information above must be affixed to all containers of the pesticide, including tanks on spray rigs.

**Unlabeled pesticides should never be accepted.**

**Contact**

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**More information**

[https://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/health-safety-staff-listing](https://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/health-safety-staff-listing)

**Related content**

1. Pesticide Storage

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