

Properly Rinse Pesticide Containers

Proper rinsing of empty pesticide containers is a requirement of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Properly rinsed pesticide containers are considered nonhazardous solid waste by the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Properly rinsed pesticide containers save money and protect people and the environment, especially groundwater. Proper rinsing is required to recycle containers. Rinsing pesticide containers is important to accomplish the end goal of making containers a nonhazardous solid waste, and insuring that all of the pesticide, including that in the rinsate, is used on the target. Rinsate from containers should be added to the sprayer tank so it does not become hazardous waste.



The proper rinse procedure requires that you plan ahead!

- Read and follow label directions!
- Wear the required protective clothing and equipment.
- Rinse containers immediately after emptying because pesticides will dry or solidify quickly and become difficult to remove.
- Consider the volume of the rinsate when filling the sprayer tank. Leave enough room in the sprayer tank to accommodate the rinsate before filling the tank.
- Have back-flow protection when filling the sprayer tank and rinsing the container.

You have two acceptable ways to rinse empty pesticide containers:

- 1) Triple-rinsing
- 2) Pressure-rinsing (jet-rinsing) using a device specifically manufactured to wash container interiors.

How to triple-rinse containers

- ✓ Allow empty pesticide container to drain into the sprayer tank for at least 30 seconds.
- ✓ Fill container one-quarter full of clean water or appropriate spray rinse diluent. Replace cap securely and roll, swirl and shake the contents vigorously for at least one full minute to rinse all surfaces!
- ✓ Remove container cap and empty rinsate into the spray tank. Allow the container to drain for at least 30 seconds.
- ✓ Repeat the fill, shake and drain procedure two (2) more times, using clean water.
- ✓ Properly dispose of the rinsed containers as soon as possible. Dispose of caps with the containers unless recycling.
- ✓ Plastic and plastic-lined bags can be triple-rinsed. For paper and fiber bags and similar containers, completely empty the contents into the tank. Open both ends of the container to remove any remaining pesticide and to prevent reuse.

How to pressure-rinse containers

- ✓ Allow the empty pesticide container to drain into the sprayer tank for at least 30 seconds.
- ✓ Hold the container upside down over the sprayer tank opening so that rinsate will run into the sprayer tank. For ease and safety, puncture through the bottom of metal containers and through the side of plastic containers with appropriate tool or pressure-rinsing nozzle-follow specific manufacturer directions.
- ✓ Thoroughly rinse the empty container for the time interval recommended by the pressure-rinse nozzle manufacturer, but no less than 30 seconds, using at least 40 psi water pressure.
- ✓ Properly dispose of the rinsed containers as soon as possible. Dispose of caps with containers, unless recycling.



Some manufacturers and suppliers of pressure-rinsing equipment:

GEMPLER'S
P.O. Box 270
100 Countryside Drive
Belleville, WI 53508
voice: 1-800-382-8473
fax: 1-800-551-1128
<http://www.gemplers.com>

Jet Rinse
Select Styled Systems, Ltd.
100 E. School Rd
Palmer, Iowa 50571
voice: (712) 359-2467
fax: (712) 359-2367
sales@jetrinse.com

Qwik-Rinse Nozzles
Qwik-Rinse, Inc
P.O. Box 3453
Richmond, VA 23235
voice: (804) 272-7065
toll free voice: 1-800-645-7291
<http://security-one.com/qwik-rinse/>
cks@cavtel.net

Many pesticide, farm, and nursery equipment dealers also sell pesticide rinse nozzles.

(Information verified 2/14)

Recycle your plastic pesticide containers!

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and the Cooperative Extension Service hold pesticide container collections in most counties. Call the DPR at (864) 646-2150 (Clemson) or (803) 736-7680 (Columbia), or your county Extension office for information. For large containers over 6 gallons, contact your pesticide dealer or pesticide company representative for information on programs they may have.

For more information:

Clemson University Department of Entomology Pesticide Information Program
<http://entweb.clemson.edu/pesticid/>

Department of Pesticide Regulation at Clemson University
<http://dpr.clemson.edu/SpecialPrograms>

Ag Container Recycling Council
<http://www.acrecycle.org/>

Remember:

- ***Always read and follow label directions!***
 - ***Wear proper protective clothing and equipment.***
 - ***Dispose of rinsed containers promptly and properly.***
 - ***Recycle plastic pesticide containers whenever possible! They must be empty, properly rinsed, dry, and with caps removed. Caps do not recycle.***
 - ***SC DHEC regulations do not allow you to burn or bury pesticide containers in South Carolina!***
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