

Code of Best Practice No. 7 Pesticide Stores

For retail, home use and professional purposes

This Code of Best Practice doesn't provide exact solutions to the problems of storing pesticides for use or sale, but following its practical guidance will help to protect sprayers, members of the public and animals from the potentially harmful effects of pesticides.

The main risks

Pesticides are valuable tools in pest management but only when used in a responsible manner. A Pesticide is a poison which when misused can cause considerable harm. The main risks when storing pesticides are to:

- The people handling the pesticides, if they don't take care
- Workers who have to be in or near the store as part of their duties
- Users of the area near the store such as children, pets and other animals

This code of practice is intended to guide you in storing pesticides to avoid these harmful effects.

Who is this code of practice for?

For anyone storing pesticides for any reason: for sale to the public, for use on their own land, as a contractor, or as a professional service. It also covers the retail area in shops where pesticides are offered for sale to the public.

Inside the pesticide store

- Shelving should be of metal, not wood, and be no higher than workers can comfortably reach (head height);
- Herbicides, insecticides and fungicides should be stored in separate groups, to avoid accidentally selecting the wrong product;
- Powders are stored above liquids (liquids can leak if the containers are damaged);
- All pesticides should be labeled, preferably the original labels;
- Place pesticide containers on drip trays, to contain any spillage or leakage;
- A bucket or container of inert material such as cat litter or sand should be kept at the store in the event of spillage of liquid pesticide, to contain the spill;
- Pesticides labeled "flammable" should be kept apart, and the fire service consulted as to the appropriate conditions of storage.

Managing the stock

- An inventory of products in store should be kept up-to-date, and held separate to the store, available in the event of an emergency (eg in case of fire at the store);
- Practice stock rotation, so oldest stock is used first.

For disposal of expired, broken or leaking pesticides consult Environmental Health

Look out for other people or animals who could be put at risk through badly stored pesticides.

The store itself

- The pesticide store should be well ventilated and well lit;
- It should be lockable to make it secure from unauthorised access;
- Large pesticide stores should have bunding around the floor, this is a raised lip to contain any spillage or leakage;
- The store must have no internal drains which connect to public drainage, in order to protect water sources;
- Pesticides should be stored away from food or other edible produce intended for human or animal consumption, with either a physical separation or at least 2 – 3m away;
- The exterior of the store should be marked with the general danger sign (yellow triangle with a black border and black exclamation mark in the middle); no smoking signs and no naked flame should also be placed.

Retail area

- Are the pesticides displayed separate from fertilizers, plant feeds, seeds, pet foods and other pet products such as shampoos?
- Are the pesticides displayed away from flammable and corrosive products?
- Does sales staff working in the area know what to do in the event of pesticide spillage? Is there a bucket of sand available?

Additional information

- Keep copies of all the labels and Material Safety Datasheets in a folder outside the store for easy reference;
- Personal protective equipment such as gloves and coveralls should be kept outside the store.
- Spray cans should also be kept outside the store.

Advice and further information

- Contact the Pest Control Services Officer at ANRD on 24724 for advice on pesticides in general.
- Code of Practice for Suppliers of pesticides to agriculture, horticulture and forestry: http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/Resources/CRD/Migrated-Resources/Documents/Y/yellow_code.pdf