

North Carolina

Pesticide Storage

Regulations



North Carolina Pesticide Storage Regulations

If pesticides are not stored properly, they have the potential to harm people (especially children), domestic animals, wildlife, and the environment. People or animals may swallow improperly stored pesticides or be poisoned through skin contact or inhalation. Other possible pesticide accidents resulting from improper storage include chemical fires, explosions, flooding, or spills that contaminate well water, surface water, or the soil.

Proper storage can extend the shelf life of your pesticides. Good storage practices will also keep pesticide containers in sound condition and their labels clean and legible. Labels are very important for every aspect of pesticide use, storage, and disposal. A pesticide label should be your first and best source of information on product-specific storage requirements. Check labels on stored products frequently. If a label gets fragile or hard to read, you should get a new label.

This guide presents an overview of your responsibilities under the North Carolina storage rules and provides information on proper storage of pesticides and pesticide containers. For further information on these regulations, or to obtain a new label for a product, please contact the Pesticide Section, Food and Drug Protection Division, North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, P.O. Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611. Telephone: 919-733-3556.

This brochure is divided into the following five parts. You should read the introduction to each section to determine if it applies to you.

- Part One - Storage Requirements for All Pesticides
- Part Two - Commercial Storage of Restricted-Use Pesticides
- Part Three - Commercial Storage Requirements for Large Facilities Storing Restricted-Use Pesticides.
- Part Four - Notification Requirements for Restricted-Use Pesticides
- Part Five - Important Phone Numbers

Part One Storage Requirements for All Pesticides

Part One outlines general storage rules that apply to all persons storing any quantity of any pesticide. These rules apply to *household, farm, and commercial* storage of both general-use and restricted-use pesticides. (See also Parts Two and Three for additional commercial storage requirements.)

1. Store pesticides to prevent leaking and to facilitate inspection.
2. Do not store formulated (undiluted) pesticides in unlabeled containers. The following minimum information must be shown clearly and prominently on any containers of formulated pesticide:
 - Common chemical name;
 - Percentage of each active ingredient;
 - EPA registration number;
 - Signal word (Caution, Warning, or Danger);
 - Use classification (restricted use or general use).
3. Do not store pesticides (*formulated products or dilutions*) in any food, feed, beverage, or medicine container that has previously been used for such purposes, or that is specifically designed to contain only those products.
4. Do not store pesticides in a way that could cause the contamination of foods, feeds, beverages, eating utensils, tobacco, tobacco products, other pesticides, seeds, or fertilizers, or otherwise likely to result in accidental ingestion by humans or domestic animals.
5. Store pesticides in accordance with (a) storage recommendations, if any, on their labeling; and (b) labeling on all other products, including non-pesticide products, held in the same storage area.
6. Store pesticides in such a way as to prevent them from being accessible to unauthorized persons when unattended.
7. Store pesticides in an area that is dry (does not accumulate water) and ventilated.
8. Pesticide storage areas must be free of combustible materials such as gasoline, kerosene, or petroleum solvents (other than those associated with pesticide application) and debris such as waste paper, rags, or used cardboard boxes that

may provide an ignition source. Storage areas must be separated from other operations that present a fire hazard such as welding or burning. Appropriate care must be taken to minimize fire hazard potential when providing supplemental heating to storage during winter months.

Part Two Commercial Storage of Restricted-Use Pesticides

In addition to Part One above, Part Two applies to any quantity of restricted-use pesticides stored by pesticide dealers, licensed pesticide applicators, and other commercial storage facilities. A restricted-use pesticide is required by the EPA to bear a label designating it as a "restricted-use pesticide."

1. Use security precautions that prevent unauthorized access to stored pesticides. As a minimum, "non-display" pesticide storage areas should be locked when unattended. A warning sign is to be posted beside all entrances to non-display pesticide storage areas stating, "Pesticide Storage," "Authorized Personnel Only," "In Case of Emergency Call (name and telephone number of the appropriate emergency contact)."
2. Pesticide spills must be cleaned up immediately. Floor-sweeping compounds such as adsorptive clay (e.g., kitty litter), sand, sawdust, lime, or similar suitable materials are to be kept on hand to absorb spills or leaks. Use safe disposal techniques when disposing of pesticide-contaminated adsorptive materials.
3. Pesticides must be stored to prevent contact with water resulting from area cleanup, storm waters, leaks, or impounded or flowing waters, or any other source that represents a likely potential for flooding.
4. Pesticides must not be stored within 100 feet horizontally of a public water supply or within 50 feet horizontally of a private water supply. An exemption from the requirements of this part may be granted by the N.C. Pesticide Board upon receipt of a written request for such an exemption from the owner or operator of a commercial-storage facility. Each request must describe

existing conditions requiring such an exemption. A request for an exemption should be submitted to the Board in care of the NCDA&CS-Pesticide Section.

5. The person responsible for each pesticide storage facility will also be responsible for the following:
 - (a) Compliance with all appropriate state and local fire codes and building codes and with all applicable state environmental laws and regulations;
 - (b) Development of a pre-fire plan for the storage facility. The plan will be a description of the facility's plans and procedures for management of fires involving pesticides. A suggested pre-fire plan format is in the publication, *Pre-Planning and Guidelines for Handling Agricultural Fires*, reprinted by the National Agricultural Chemicals Association (Telephone Number: 202-296-1585). The form for this pre-fire plan can also be downloaded from the Internet (<http://www.acpa.org/public/pubs/prefire.pdf>).
 - 1) One copy of the pre-fire plan (*approved* by the fire department or emergency services office having jurisdiction) will be maintained in the office of the storage facility for inspection by the N.C. Pesticide Board.
 - 2) One copy of the plan will be filed with the fire department or emergency services office having jurisdiction.
 - 3) A written notification must be sent to the local fire department or emergency service office requesting annual inspection of the facility.
6. The person responsible for the storage facility must, upon discovery of an emergency such as a fire, spill, or unintended release of pesticides into the environment, immediately notify the secretary of the N.C. Pesticide Board (by way of the NCDA&CS-Pesticide Section) if the emergency poses a hazard or imminent danger to humans, animals, aquatic life, or threat of substantial damage to property. Notification of the emergency

must also be given to the fire department, local emergency services office, and other appropriate state and federal agencies. Part V of this brochure lists important emergency phone numbers.

7. Any person operating a storage facility must maintain a current inventory list of the brand names and formulations of stored pesticides. An inventory list is considered current if it is updated every 30 days. A copy of this list must be maintained in a separate location from the storage facility. This list must be made available to the N.C. Pesticide Board or the NCDA&CS-Pesticide Section staff upon request.

Part Three

Commercial Storage Requirements for Large Facilities Storing Restricted-Use Pesticides

In addition to Parts One and Two, these rules apply to any commercial facility that stores 10,000 pounds or more of restricted-use pesticides at any one time. Licensed applicators storing 10,000 pounds or more of restricted-use pesticides are considered operators of large commercial facilities.

1. Pesticides must not be stored within 200 feet of the property line of any schools, hospitals, nursing homes, or other institutional facilities.
2. A completed Contingency Plan for Pesticide Storage (Form PC-417) must be submitted to the N.C. Pesticide Board for each large storage facility. This form can be obtained through your local pesticide inspector or by contacting the NCDA&CS-Pesticide Section. The contingency plan will be designed to minimize hazards to human health or the environment from fires, explosions, spills, or any other unplanned release of pesticides or pesticide contaminated materials to air, soil, or surface water.
3. Sufficient detail must be provided in the contingency plan. If a contingency plan is deemed adequate upon inspection by an agent of the N.C. Pesticide Board (NCDA&CS-Pesticide Section staff), it will be approved on-site. If the contingency plan provides insufficient information, areas needing further clarification will be discussed

with the manager of the facility. Upon correction of the deficiencies, the contingency plan will be approved by an agent of the Board.

4. Copies of the contingency plan and all revisions to the plan will be maintained at the facility and submitted to the North Carolina Pesticide Board in care of the NCDA&CS-Pesticide Section.
5. The provisions of this plan must be carried out immediately whenever there is a fire, explosion, spill, or other release of pesticides or pesticide-contaminated materials that could threaten human health or the environment.
6. The contingency plan will be reviewed and immediately amended and resubmitted to the Board, if necessary, whenever:
 - a) The plan fails in an emergency;
 - b) The facility changes - in its design, construction, operation, or maintenance;
 - c) The list of contact personnel changes;
 - d) The list of emergency equipment changes.

Part Four

Notification Requirements for Restricted-Use Pesticides

These rules apply to anyone providing 10,000 pounds or more of restricted-use pesticides to a storage facility in North Carolina in a single calendar year unless the product is delivered to a pesticide dealer currently licensed by the N.C. Pesticide Board.

1. Any person falling within the scope of this regulation must notify the N.C. Pesticide Board annually of all such delivery locations. The secretary of the N.C. Pesticide Board can be reached by contacting the NCDA&CS-Pesticide Section.
2. This notification must include:
 - a) The name of the person responsible for or assuming ownership or possession of the pesticide;
 - b) The name, address, and telephone number at the storage area or facility;
 - c) The name, address, and telephone number of the registrant's emergency contact for technical information.
3. Upon receipt of the above information, the North Carolina Pesticide Board or its agents (NCDA&

CS-Pesticide Section) will notify the operator of the storage facility that pre-fire and contingency plans must be developed. The operator of the facility will be provided with all required forms and the phone number of the Board's secretary to whom emergency reports must be filed.

Part Five

Important Telephone Numbers

Carolinas Poison Center (24hours)

1-800-848-6946 (1-800-84-TOXIN)

** For aid in human poisoning cases*

NC Emergency Management (24 hours)

1-800-858-0368

** To report accidents (spills and leaks) involving pesticides.*

CHEMTREC (24hours)

1-800-424-9300

** For help involving spills, leaks, fires, and accidents involving hazardous chemicals.*

NCDA&CS – Pesticide Section (business hours)

1-919-733-3556

Secretary for the NC Pesticide Board (business hours)

1-919-733-3556

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This material was condensed from Regulation NCAC 9L. 1901-1913-PESTICIDE STORAGE. For copies of the complete Regulation, please contact NCDA&CS-Pesticide Section at 919-733-3556.