

Pesticides need to be handled, used, and disposed of appropriately, in order to minimize risk to human health and the environment. If you have unwanted pesticide products and/or containers and are considering disposal options, the first thing you should do is **read the label**.

How can I dispose of unwanted Domestic pesticides?

“Domestic” class pesticides have the word “Domestic” displayed on the main information panel of their labels. They include, for example, some brands of Roundup, Killex, and Sevin that can be purchased at local garden stores. For this class of pesticides, the following disposal options are available:

1. You may be able to return unopened Domestic pesticide containers to the manufacturer or the vendor from which it was purchased. Call them beforehand to inquire.
2. If your Domestic pesticide has a label with both the poisonous (skull & cross bones) symbol and a Pest Control Product (PCP) number, the best disposal option is to take it to the nearest Product Care Paint Plus Depot. These depots are run by the Product Care Program, and there is at least one Product Care Depot in every regional district in British Columbia. They will accept these products free-of-charge, and dispose of the pesticides through a permitted facility. A list of depot locations and further information is available at the Product Care website listed below, or by calling 1-800-667-4321.

Product Care Program website www.productcare.org

3. Contact your municipality or regional district to determine if they operate a household hazardous waste roundup program in your area.
4. If your Domestic pesticide has a Pest Control Product (PCP) number but does not have the poisonous (skull & cross bones) symbol, it may be absorbed into kitty litter and disposed of at a landfill.

How can I dispose of unwanted Commercial or Restricted pesticides?

“Commercial” class pesticides will have the word “Commercial” (or, “Agricultural”, “Horticultural”, or “Industrial”) displayed on the main information panel of their labels. “Restricted” class pesticides will have the word “Restricted” displayed on the main panel of their labels. In general, these are concentrated pesticides that require dilution before they are used. Examples include agricultural insecticides like diazinon and endosulfan, forestry herbicides like glyphosate and horticultural fungicides like Captan.

There currently are no permanent locations in B.C. where commercial pesticides can be taken for disposal. The following options are available:

1. You may be able to return your unused pesticides, in their original containers to the vendor or supplier from which they were purchased. Call them beforehand to inquire about this option.
2. You may use the pesticide according to label directions. For example, apply it to a crop specified on the label.
3. If you are a licensed pesticide user, you may give your unused pesticides to another licensed pesticide user. Please ensure that you are giving it to someone who will be using it for the purposes described on the product label.
4. Contact your municipality or regional district and ask them if they operate a hazardous waste roundup or a similar program, and ask what sort of pesticides they accept. Commercial class pesticides may or may not be acceptable, depending on the program, so be prepared to tell them the type and quantity of product you have.

5. You may obtain the services of a company that specializes in hazardous waste disposal. These companies will assist you to determine if you have a hazardous material and will arrange pick up and disposal of your unwanted pesticides for a fee. You will need to provide the company with the pesticide name, number and size of containers, and approximate volume of liquid pesticides or weight of solid pesticides. To obtain more information about registered hazardous waste disposal companies in your area please call the IPM program staff in your area (see phone numbers below).

Helpful hazardous waste information:

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/hazwaste/> <http://www.hazwastebc.com/>

6. Keep your pesticides properly stored, and wait for a B.C. Pesticide Return event. Under B.C. law, commercial pesticides must be stored in a structure that is locked, vented, and has a sign saying “WARNING – CHEMICAL STORAGE”. If your pesticides are in leaky containers, consider transferring these containers into larger, secure containers, such as 20 L plastic pails or 200 L plastic drums. Keep liquids and solids separate, and properly labelled. The B.C. Pesticide Return program provides individuals with unwanted and obsolete Commercial and Restricted pesticides the opportunity to safely dispose of these products free-of-charge. For more information on this program and pesticide collection schedule in your area, visit the “Pesticide Wise” link listed below.

Pesticide Wise website, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands www.al.gov.bc.ca/pesticides

How can I dispose of unlabelled or unknown pesticides?

If you have unlabelled or poorly-labelled containers that you know or suspect may contain a pesticide, you should take a precautionary approach to handling and disposing of these products. In many cases, the precautionary approach is to treat the products as hazardous waste, and therefore they should be handled, transported, and disposed of by a hazardous waste company (see instructions above for dispose of unwanted Commercial or Restricted pesticides).

What about empty pesticide containers?

Domestic pesticide containers may be disposed of in the household garbage. Do not put them into “blue boxes” for recycling. It is always best to rinse empty containers before disposing of them. Use the rinse water when mixing a new batch of pesticide or pour it onto the ground in the area where you applied the pesticide; do not pour it down the drain.

Commercial pesticide containers must be appropriately rinsed, and may be taken to a container collection site for recycling. For instructions on how to properly rinse containers, and a list of empty container recycling sites in B.C., visit the “Pesticide Wise” website www.al.gov.bc.ca/pesticides

Where can I get more information?

For more information on pesticide disposal options, please contact IPM program staff in your area:

Region	Phone number
Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island	(604) 582-5200
Thompson, Okanagan, and Kootenays	(250) 490-8200
Cariboo, Omineca, Skeena, and Peace	(250) 565-6135

For valuable information on pesticides and pesticide disposal, please visit the following websites:

IPM Program website, Ministry of Environment www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/ipmp

Pest Management Regulatory Agency website, Health Canada www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pest