

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. The label may describe disposal procedures. These must be followed.**

How can I dispose of unwanted Domestic or household 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.

1. If your pesticide **container is not opened**:

- 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 you wish to **dispose of household pesticides**:

- First read the label. The label may describe disposal procedures. These must be followed.
- If the label does not provide details or you need more information, contact the Recycling Hotline of British Columbia.
- 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. To discuss the disposal of these products contact the Recycling Hotline of British Columbia.
- If the container is leaky or in poor condition, place the entire container into another larger container to prevent any leaks from escaping while you store or transport the pesticide.

Recycling Hotline of British Columbia (RCBC): <https://www.rcbc.ca/services/recycling-hotline>

BC Toll-Free: 1-800-667-4321

Lower Mainland: 604-RECYCLE (604-732-9253)

Email: hotline@rcbc.ca

What about empty pesticide containers?

Domestic or household 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.

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.

Helpful hazardous waste information:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/waste-management/hazardous-waste>

<https://bceia.com/hazwaste/>

6. Keep your pesticides properly stored, and wait for a B.C. Pesticide Return event.

CleanFarms collects and safely disposes of obsolete or otherwise unwanted agricultural pesticides through their obsolete pesticide collection program. For more information on this program and pesticide collection schedule in your area visit the CleanFarms site.

CleanFarms: www.cleanfarms.ca

7. 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 storing these containers inside larger, secure containers, such as 20 L plastic pails or 200 L plastic drums. Keep liquids and solids separate, and properly labelled.

What about empty pesticide containers?

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 CleanFarms website (above) or contact your local government.