Pesticide Container Recycling
Frequently Asked Questions

The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) entered into an agreement in 1975 to maintain a comprehensive pesticide enforcement, surveillance, sampling and laboratory analysis program and to certify individuals who use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides, including providing information about safe disposal of pesticides and recycle pesticide containers.

Improper disposal of waste pesticides may result in surface or groundwater pollution. The NDA's pesticide waste disposal program gives pesticide users the opportunity to properly discard unwanted pesticide products, protecting the environment from pesticide pollution and contamination. In addition, pesticide containers deteriorate over time. Leaking containers can result in pesticide exposure to people, pets, wildlife and the environment. Avoid costly cleanups or exposure by disposing of unwanted pesticides.

What should be done with empty pesticide containers?

Recycling is the approved method of container disposal. Plastic from pesticide containers is a valuable resource that can be recycled and used as pesticide containers, pallets, waste drums, and other items. **Per Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 445B.22067**, it is illegal to burn pesticide containers in Nevada.

The NDA, in cooperation with the Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC), Interstate Ag Plastics (IAP) and the state's pesticide users came together to implement a convenient and effective container recycling pilot program.

What types of containers can be recycled through the NDA?

Eligible containers are recycled into a number of new products, including new pesticide containers, agricultural drain pipes, parking stops and speed bumps. The following are recyclable through the NDA:

- high density polyethylene (HDPE) 55 gallons and smaller
- containers that held EPA-registered pesticides labeled for agricultural, industrial vegetation management, turf, nursery and aquatic use
- containers that held crop oil, surfactant, and adjuvants

Some types of containers are ineligible:

- containers with any residue
- containers that held animal healthcare products or disinfectants
- consumer home or garden pest control and swimming pool product containers

How do I recycle pesticide containers?

1. **Triple-rinse** containers using the instructions on the reverse side so all residue is removed.
2. Dry containers completely.
3. Staining is acceptable; residue and caked on residue is not. 55 and 30 gallon jugs need to be cut into quarters. Containers will be inspected. Those that are not properly prepared will be rejected and returned to their owner.
4. Caps are not recyclable. Do not put a cap back on a rinsed container.
5. Labels and booklets interfere with recycling and should be removed. The portion of the label that is glued to the container does not need to be removed. The rest of the booklet must be removed prior to recycling.
6. Store containers in a clean dry location.
7. Mark storage bag with your name and phone number. (Large poly storage bags that will hold up to 20 2.5-gallon jugs are available from the NDA).
8. Contact pesticide dealers to make arrangements for drop off.
9. Transport containers to collection site.

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Nevada Department of Agriculture

Where can I bring my recyclable pesticide containers?

The NDA, ACRC, IAP and multiple state pesticide users and distributors are participating in this program to implement a convenient, effective and approved method of container recycling and disposal.

Containers are accepted at approved locations in Nevada during specific times each year. Call the NDA at (775) 353-3715 for the next scheduled container collection period. After making prior arrangements, containers may be dropped off at one of the collection locations listed below:

1. Churchill County Mosquito, Vector and Weed Control in Fallon
2. NDA Headquarters, Sparks
3. Pershing County Landfill in Lovelock
4. Ron's Seed and Supply in Winnemucca
5. Simplot Growers Solutions in Orovada
6. Stanislaus Farm Supply in Yerington

How do I triple-rinse containers?

1. Wear the same personal protective equipment while rinsing containers as the pesticide label requires for handling and mixing.
2. Remove the cap from the pesticide container. Empty all pesticide into the spray tank, allowing the container to drain for 30 seconds. Begin rinsing immediately or the product may be difficult to remove. If you are unable to rinse the container immediately, replace the cap until you can.
3. Fill the container 10 percent to 20 percent full of water or rinse solution (i.e., fertilizer solution).
4. Replace the cap on the container.
5. Swirl the liquid within the container to rinse all inside surfaces.
6. Remove the cap from the container. Pour the rinsate from the pesticide container to the spray tank and allow it to drain for 30 seconds or more.
7. Repeat steps 3 through 6 two more times.
8. Puncture or crush the container so it cannot be reused.
9. Replace the cap and dispose of pesticide container according to label directions.
10. If recycling, remember that caps and containers are made from different materials; therefore, caps cannot be recycled.

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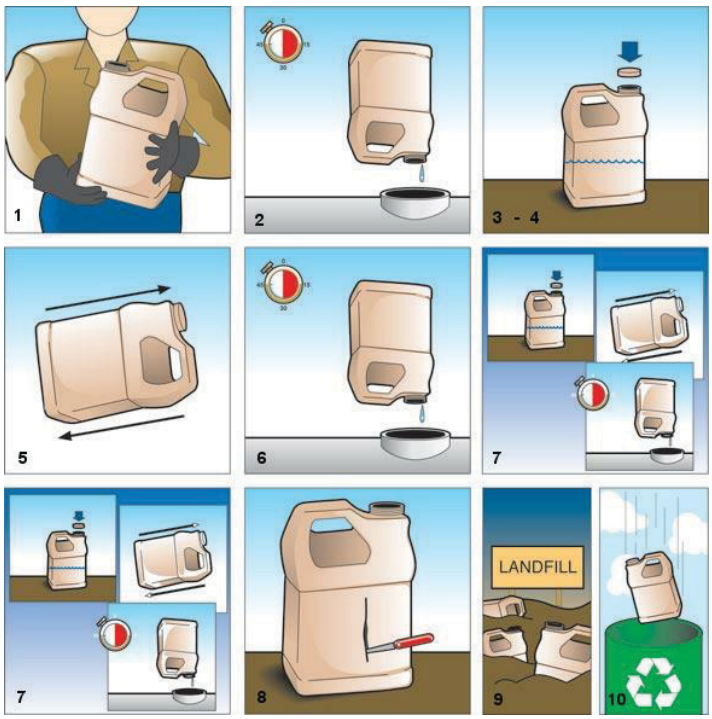
Additional Resources

- **Interstate Ag Plastics**
  interstateagplastics.com
- **Agricultural Container Recycling Council**
  acrecycle.org



Instructions and image courtesy of University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension.