



How to Manage Rinsate

Rinsate is the mixture of water that's contaminated with low concentrations of pesticide products. It may come from:

- rinsed containers;
- sumps;
- cleanout water or leftover tank mix;
- previously stored rinsate; and/or
- spill cleanups.

Rinsate becomes a waste problem when it cannot be recycled or reused at the pesticide operation site. Pesticide equipment requires periodic cleaning and rinsing to keep vital equipment components in good working condition and when switching from one pesticide to another. Improper management of rinsate has great potential for contaminating surface and ground water. The best way to eliminate this problem is to perform all interior and exterior rinsing in modern pesticide mixing and loading facilities equipped with a concrete rinse pad and rinsate-collection pit. However, disposal of the rinsate collected in the pit or recovery system could become a major problem. This is why it is important to reduce the amount of rinsate to a minimum. If possible, reuse the rinsate when preparing the next batch of tank mixture. Make sure all the dirt and debris in the rinsate are filtered out before adding the rinsate to the spray tank. The small amount of solids left should be dried and taken to a hazardous waste disposal site or pesticide collection event. The chart below gives some tips to manage rinsate effectively.

Rinsate 3 R's

- **Reduce**
 - Use water-efficient measures to clean tanks, such as:
 - using power washers, e.g., pressurized hook or wand rinser.
 - avoiding spills with careful management.
 - roofing or otherwise covering the mixing/loading area.
 - using a closed mixing system (CMS) approach to mixing/loading.
 - plan accordingly and mix only the amount you will need
- **Reuse**
 - Use rinsate to dilute future field tank mixes.
 - Dilute 10:1 water:rinsate and apply to a labeled sites and within label rates.
 - If you plan to store the material, segregate and label recovered materials.
 - **DO NOT STORE RINSATE UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY**
- **Recycle**
 - Use bulk containers or CMS to minimize waste and mixed solutions:
 - some partially used bulk containers can be returned
 - Recycle unused pesticides in original containers:

For more information on how to manage pesticide rinsate, contact the Nevada Department of Agriculture in Sparks at 775-353-3715 or Las Vegas at 702-668-4590. Visit our web site at www.agri.nv.gov