

How to Properly Discard Empty Pesticide Containers.

Cecil Tharp (MSU Pesticide Education Specialist)

Applicators often have questions regarding the elimination of empty pesticide containers. By following a few simple steps applicators can ensure that empty pesticide containers are discarded properly and legally. This includes triple rinsing, puncturing containers and identifying a container disposal site.

Prior to discarding any pesticide containers a pesticide applicator is required to power-wash or triple rinse the containers. The rinsate should be discarded in pesticide tanks and sprayed over a site listed on the pesticide product label at or below required product label rates. After triple rinsing, the container should be rendered unusable by puncturing.



The Montana Department of Agriculture Pesticide Container Recycling Program is an option for applicators desiring to keep pesticide container plastic out of Montana's landfills. This program has collected more than 100,000 pounds of pesticide containers since October 2009. Numerous sites across Montana are available that applicators may use by simply searching the container recycling map at <http://agr.mt.gov/agr/Programs/Pesticides/Environmental/ContainerRecycling/>. Once an acceptable site is found, applicators may contact the local cooperator to arrange a drop off of empty pesticide containers. Shredded plastic from pesticide containers is recycled to create non-consumer items such as drain tile, roadway speed bumps, pallets and landscape edging.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: See the MDA Pesticide Container Recycling Program website at <http://agr.mt.gov/agr/Programs/Pesticides/Environmental/ContainerRecycling/>. Contact Carli Lofing for additional information regarding the MDA Pesticide Disposal or Container Recycling Program at (406)444-9615 or email at clofing@mt.gov. For any other questions contact Cecil Tharp, Pesticide Education Specialist, at the MSU Pesticide Education Program office (406)-994-5067, ctharp@montana.edu.