

CCE-PSEP Pesticide Education Fact Sheet: **Storing Pesticides at Home**

You probably use at least one [pesticide](#) around your home. As you should do with all household chemicals, store pesticides properly to protect your family from accidental exposure, prevent spills, and extend the shelf life of the products.

Read and follow the “Storage and Disposal” section of the pesticide product label.



STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

Always store pesticides:

- In their original, labeled containers,
- In a cool, dry area free from temperature extremes, and
- Where they are inaccessible to children and pets.

Pesticide Storage: Store in original container in a cool, dry area away from heat or open flame and in an area inaccessible to children and pets. Keep from freezing.

Pesticide Disposal: If empty: Nonrefillable container. Do not reuse or refill this container.

If partly filled: Call your local solid waste agency for disposal instructions. Never place unused product down any indoor or outdoor drain.



A locked metal cabinet in a basement is a great option for storing pesticides

Other Tips for Storing Pesticides

- **Never** store pesticides with food or in old food containers; doing so can lead to accidental exposure and poisoning.
- Put pesticide containers in a clear plastic bin so you can easily see and contain spills.
- Write the date of purchase on each container and use older products first. This helps you avoid having to dispose of old, deteriorated products.
- If you use measuring cups or utensils to mix pesticides, store them with your pesticides and label them “Pesticide Use Only” so you won’t use them in the kitchen.
- If you have unwanted or unusable pesticides, write “For Disposal” on the containers and contact your local solid and hazardous waste department for disposal options.
- Dispose of empty pesticide containers in the household trash; do not store, recycle, or reuse them for any purpose.



What NOT to Store with Pesticides

- Store personal protective equipment (e.g., goggles, chemical-resistant gloves) in a separate location; they must be free of chemical residue to protect you.
- Store fertilizer, potting soil, and plant propagation material (e.g., seeds and bulbs) in a separate location to avoid pesticide contamination that could harm seedlings, transplants, and turf. Store “weed & feed” products separately from these items and from pesticides.

