



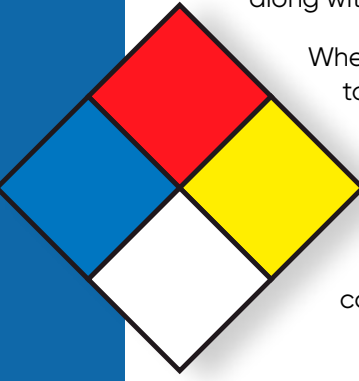
Store Pesticides Properly Over Winter

More farmers are buying and storing herbicides this fall for use the following spring. Certain storage precautions are necessary over the winter months to keep products safe and to help ensure they don't degrade and become less effective. For example, glyphosate and glufosinate must be stored at or above 10°F and 32°F, respectively.

Kent McGuire, Ohio State University Ag Safety and Health Coordinator, says the first step for winter pesticide storage is to designate one area or a storage cabinet on the farm to store pesticides. They need to be in a cool, dry place away from sunlight and all other products, especially hazardous chemicals. "Access to the area should be locked, especially if there are children around, with posted signs that alert others of pesticide storage," he stresses.

Manage inventory

Whether the storage area needs to be climate controlled depends on the variety of products stored and their storage temperatures. Use the U.S. EPA product labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDS) to determine product safety, storage and usage details. Look for information on what to do in case of spills and what absorption materials to have on hand, along with appropriate fire extinguishers.



When placing products in storage, be sure to keep liquids on the lowest shelves so a leak won't contaminate dry products. "Also, make it a regular habit every few weeks to check your storage areas for leaks, damaged labels or other issues with containers," McGuire adds.

Another practice that McGuire recommends is keeping an inventory of your pesticides. "It could be done on a spreadsheet or even as simple as a handwritten record that is revised as inventory changes. The goal is to track what chemicals you have on hand at a given time, which helps first responders in a potential emergency," he says.

It's also a good idea to track the ages of chemicals you have in storage. The age of a product, especially given winter temperature extremes, can challenge formulations. "One of the general rules of thumb to follow is that if you haven't used the product in the last year or two, it's time to dispose of it properly," McGuire says. "This helps with inventory management by preventing a large accumulation of unused old chemicals."

Post-winter check

If you have liquid pesticides that freeze or are subjected to temperatures below the recommended range, they may be less effective. Some products can be thawed naturally at room temperature but you should never use heat or flame. Once the formulation thaws, roll and shake the container to re-suspend the components. If crystals are still present after thawing, you should not use the pesticide.

"If you have questions about product efficacy following winter, check with your local retailer or contact the company about product stability," McGuire adds.

Content provided by DTN/Progressive Farmer



Check minimum and maximum storage temperatures for pesticides by reading the U.S. EPA product label or Safety Data Sheet.