

Pressure-rinsing

Pressure-rinsing is usually faster and easier than triple-rinsing. A special nozzle, generally available from your pesticide supplier, is attached to the end of a pressure hose and used to wash the remaining pesticide from the container. The hydrant or water source should have an anti-siphon valve or a back-flow protection device attached.

1. Remove cap from the pesticide container. Empty pesticide into the spray tank and allow the container to drain for 30 seconds.
2. Insert the pressure-rinser nozzle by puncturing through the lower side (not the bottom) of the pesticide container.
3. Hold the pesticide container upside down over the spray tank opening so rinsate will run into the spray tank.
4. Rinse for length of time recommended by the manufacturer (usually 30 seconds or more). Rotate the nozzle to rinse all inside surfaces.
5. Rinse caps in a bucket of water for at least one minute and pour this rinse water into the spray tank.
6. Return container to supplier or pesticide container recycling site or dispose of the pesticide container according to label directions. Plastic caps and containers are usually made from different materials, and often are recycled separately. For more information on pesticide container recycling sites, contact your local Michigan State University Extension office.

Triple-rinsing

Triple-rinsing can be done as follows:

1. Remove cap from the pesticide container. Empty all remaining pesticide into the spray tank, allowing the container to drain for 30 seconds.
2. Fill the container 20% full of water or rinse solution (i.e., fertilizer solution).
3. Secure the pesticide container cap.
4. Swirl the liquid within the container to rinse all inside surfaces.
5. Remove the cap from the container. Add the rinsate from the pesticide container to spray tank and allow to drain for 30 seconds or more.
6. Repeat steps 2 through 5 **two more times**.
7. Return container to supplier or pesticide container recycling site or dispose of the pesticide container according to label directions. Plastic caps and containers are usually made from different materials and usually are recycled separately. For more information on pesticide container recycling sites, contact your local Michigan State University Extension office.

When Rinsing is not Possible

It is not possible in certain situations to triple- or pressure-rinse pesticide containers. Thorough removal of the pesticide material packaged in bags or pressurized cans may be done as follows:

Bags

1. Empty bag contents into spray tank.
2. Shake the bag to remove as much product as possible.
3. Cut the sides and folds of the bag to allow it to fully open; add remaining product to the tank.
4. Dispose of the empty bag in a sanitary landfill if allowed by state and local laws/regulations. Some labels may allow alternate disposal methods.

Pressurized cans

1. Spray any remaining contents according to label instructions. Be sure to use it on the proper site and to use it at the correct rate, as listed on the label.
2. Dispose of the empty container according to label directions in a sanitary landfill or recycle the container following state and local laws and regulations.

Excess Pesticide Waste Disposal

The best way to dispose of small amounts of pesticide is to apply it to a label-permitted site (specific plant, animal, structure) for which the product is registered. Always double check the product label to be certain that the site is listed and that the maximum application rate will not be exceeded.

Large quantities of stored excess pesticides may be hazardous. When disposing of large quantities of such materials, contact the Michigan Clean Sweep Program (517) 355-6529 for specific disposal instructions.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture occasionally sponsors disposal programs for excess or unwanted pesticides.

Preventing accidental poisonings and damage to the environment requires pesticides to be transported, stored and disposed of in a safe manner. Read and follow the label carefully. It tells you how to use pesticides, provides information about special hazards and gives proper storage and disposal methods.