



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

NATIONAL LIBRARY &  
INFORMATION SERVICE

HEAD OFFICE

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The NRA's pollution control offices can be contacted 24 hours a day on the following telephone numbers:

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Headquarters: *Sapphire East, 550 Streetsbrook Road,  
Solihull, West Midlands B91 1QT  
Telephone: 021-711 2324*



NRA

*National Rivers Authority  
Severn-Trent Region*

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# P E S T I C I D E S

All pesticides, even when diluted, are highly toxic to fish and other water life. There is also increasing concern about the levels of pesticide found in water sources.

Every year, there are pollution incidents that are a direct result of poor preparation, application or disposal of pesticides. Safe storage of undiluted pesticides, careful application near watercourses, safe disposal of both diluted solution and the empty containers are all essential in order to prevent water pollution.

The effective management and control of pesticides should aim to produce no waste. To do this, the amount needed should be carefully calculated and the application rate controlled effectively. Even so, most spraying operations will leave some diluted solution that needs disposal.

Filling and washing of containers should only be done in a place specifically built so that any spillages are contained in that area.

When the spraying is completed all equipment should be cleaned, washed and rinsed. An efficient flushing system, instead of filling the tank with water, will considerably reduce the volume of washings produced.

The use of a soakaway is unlikely to be acceptable but there are a number of other options for disposing of the washings:

1. Re-use for making further batches of spray.
2. Removal by specialist waste disposal contractors.
3. Use of suitable equipment to treat the waste. (Disposal of the treated waste should be discussed with the NRA).

4. Spraying onto uncropped land with only minimal wildlife value and poor vegetation. (Prior discussion with the NRA is essential).

5. Application to a previously untreated crop.

## Storage

Pesticides should not be stored where they could pollute ground or surface waters. The NRA, Health and Safety Executive, fire authorities, local planning officer and crime prevention officer should all be consulted first.

## Application

Never apply pesticides if there is a chance they could drift onto water. If you wish to use pesticides in or near water consult the NRA first. Only specially formulated herbicides should be used to control aquatic weed - check with the NRA first.

## Disposal of Concentrates

It may be possible to return unwanted or unused containers to the supplier, otherwise you will have to use a reputable waste disposal contractor.

## Disposal of Containers

Thoroughly clean all containers before disposal and preferably during mixing operations. Puncture containers after cleaning so they cannot be used in the future. Licenced waste disposal sites will normally accept clean containers.

For any further advice, contact your local pollution control officer at one of the NRA's offices listed overleaf:

National Rivers Authority Information Centre Head Office	
Class No .....	
Accession No	ATRA .....



# NRA

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