

## ADDITIONAL SAFE STORAGE PRACTICES

- Have a nearby source of clean water to decontaminate skin, eye, etc. Eye wash stations are desirable and may be required by pesticide labeling or chemical safety regulations.
- Have a basic first aid kit containing information on practical treatment for chemical poisonings and emergency medical information.
- Have a plan. Develop a contingency plan for your farm/business with your fire department/rescue unit.
- In case of a fire in a chemical storage facility, the preferred course of action is to let it burn. Let fire fighters put out the fire as they have the necessary training to deal with such fires.

### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL 911

In case of emergency spills:

1. Small spills, use kitty litter or other absorbent material to soak up the spill, then dispose of it according to the label.
2. Large spills, create a barrier to prevent spreading and call Guam EPA at (671) 300-4751/52/53.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

College of Natural & Applied Sciences  
Cooperative Extension & Outreach  
University of Guam  
UOG Station  
Mangilao, Guam 96923  
Phone: (671) 735-2080  
Fax: (671) 734-5600

Originally funded by Guam Farm Safety Program and Guam Pesticide Education Safety Program

Roland J. Quitugua  
Joseph Tuquero  
Jaquay Soriano

Revised layout by Kyle Santos, April 2015

Pesticide Education Program  
Ohio State University Extension  
Extension Service, USDA/EPA

Published by the College of Natural & Applied Sciences (CNAS), University of Guam, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, under Dr. Lee S. Yudin, Director/Dean. University of Guam, CNAS, UOG Station, Mangilao, Guam 96923. Copyright 2016. For reproduction and use permission, contact CNAS-Media.events@gmail.com, (671) 735-2000.

The University of Guam is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution providing programs and services to the people of Guam without regard to race, sex, gender identity and expression, age, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, arrest and court record, sexual orientation, or status as a covered veteran.

Find CNAS publications at [CNAS-RE.uog.edu](http://CNAS-RE.uog.edu).



Funded in part by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, and the Guam Coastal Management Program, Bureau of Statistics and Plans, Government of Guam Grant award NA 170Z1120.

# Storing Pesticides Safely

Best Practices to Protect You and the Environment



Protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility. On Guam, our land and water supply is a limited resource. Protecting our aquifer through safe pesticide practice ensures a clean and uncontaminated water supply. One practice to reduce land and water contamination is through proper pesticide storage.

## STORING PESTICIDES

- **Storage container.** Use a small space to discourage storing unneeded pesticides, but large enough to handle the pesticide products that will be used. Remember to read each product's labels and comply with storage requirements.
- **Storage site.** Choose a site that is a safe place that will not flood from rivers, runoff, or tides. A site that is secured from people, especially children, and animals.

### Pesticides Storage Structures

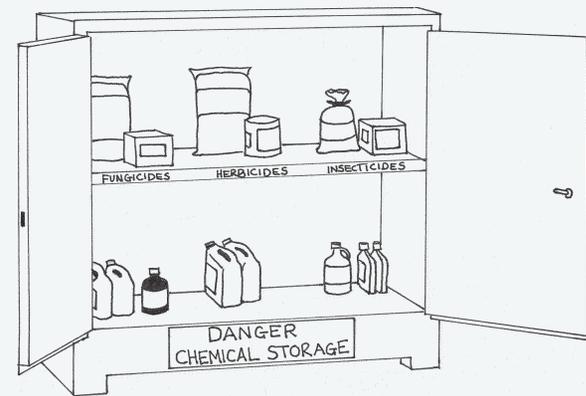
- **Portable storage containers.** Portable storage containers should be easily relocated in the case of floods or fires, and secured in case of typhoons.
- **Concrete containers.** Use concrete with a foundation for storage structures. Wood and tin roofs may blow off easily during typhoons.

### Structures Features

- **Structural materials.** Use non-flammable materials in the construction of a container to reduce fire hazard.
- **Water faucet.** A water faucet should be easily accessible for mixing pesticides and for emergency washing.



**Improper pesticide storage.**



**Proper pesticide storage.**

- **Lip or berm.** Structures should have a continuous lip of 2–4 inches around the base of the container—high enough to contain spills.
- **Lighting.** Ensure the facility has good lighting, with proper fixtures. Good lighting allows you to read labels, detect leaks and damaged containers, clean up spills, and record inventory changes.
- **Storage environment.** The facility's interior needs to be kept cool and dry.

Water and moisture will:

1. Rust metal containers.
  2. Make labels unreadable.
  3. Cause labels to detach.
  4. Cause dry formulations to clump and dissolve.
- **Ventilation.** Keep the storage container well ventilated to maintain a constant temperature and remove harmful vapors. Extremely high or low temperatures may cause pesticides to leak or explode.

- **Storage arrangement.** Group pesticide products by type when storing (insecticides, herbicides, rodenticides, etc). Place powdered pesticides above liquid pesticides.
- **Storage security.** Lock and secure the storage container. Lock all doors and windows; secure windows that are used for ventilation. For optional security, a fence could be erected around the facility to keep people and pets out. Limit access to authorized personnel only. Post signs such as, "Danger—Pesticides," "Keep Out," and "No Smoking."
- **Fire control.** Keep a fire extinguisher close by. Post emergency-numbers outside the storage facility.
- **Inventory.** Practice good record keeping by constantly updating pesticide records. All pesticide products on shelves should be secured for natural disasters (earthquakes, typhoons, etc.).