

# Emergency Cleanup Management Options



Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division

Phone: 651-201-6387 • Fax: 651-201-6112

[www.mda.state.mn.us/chemicals/spills/wastepesticides.aspx](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/chemicals/spills/wastepesticides.aspx)

## All agricultural chemical spills should be reported to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) by calling the Minnesota Duty Officer at 800-422-0798

Pesticide and fertilizer spills, leaks, and accidents require containment and cleanup. There may be issues with soil, water, sediment, debris, or other material. The MDA refers to this as “agricultural chemical contaminated media.” That’s because agricultural chemicals are at concentrations that may cause unreasonable adverse effects to the environment. It is not the result of a legal use. How do you manage contaminated media, used absorbent materials, or unusable chemical products and containers?

### Land Application (Land spreading)

A common approach to managing agricultural chemical contaminated media such as soil or water is to land apply the media onto appropriate cropland. This will require permission from a landowner, the use of a licensed applicator to spread the media, and approval by the MDA. Land application is often an inexpensive option and keeps contaminated media out of the waste stream. **All land applications that result from an agricultural chemical incident must be pre-approved in writing by the MDA.**

Anhydrous ammonia liquid and vapor have specific hazards and disposal requirements. For more information, see: [www.mda.state.mn.us/chemicals/spills/ammoniaspills/disposal.aspx](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/chemicals/spills/ammoniaspills/disposal.aspx)

Complete guidelines for filling out your land application proposal can be found here: [www.mda.state.mn.us/chemicals/spills/incidentresponse/guidelist/gd13.aspx](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/chemicals/spills/incidentresponse/guidelist/gd13.aspx)

Contact emergency response personnel for additional information about land application or landfilling: 651-201-6387



Correctly stockpiled contaminated soil

### Landfill

You may choose to dispose of agricultural chemical-contaminated media at a landfill if land application is not an option. **It is the responsibility of the landfill** to make sure that the acceptance of any materials for disposal does not violate their Minnesota Pollution Control Agency landfill operator’s permit. **It is your responsibility** to comply with all requirements regarding testing or other means of characterizing the soil required by the landfill. Once the soil is transferred to a landfill it is considered a waste material and is no longer regulated by the MDA.



*Do not burn any pesticide container in an open fire, such as in the field, in trash barrels or on burn piles. This is illegal in Minnesota.*

## Waste Pesticide Disposal Options

Pesticide containers may become damaged and both the integrity of the container and the product are questionable. These unused and unwanted pesticides must be disposed of according to label directions. **It is illegal to burn or bury a pesticide.**

The MDA has partnered with most counties to provide a means to safely dispose of unwanted and unusable pesticides through the Waste Pesticide Collection Program.

This environmentally sound program now provides expanded opportunities to dispose of potentially hazardous waste pesticides. Through the Waste Pesticide Collection program, pesticide users in almost every county around the state will have opportunities to dispose of unwanted agricultural pesticides through county household hazardous waste facilities, county mobile events or by attending MDA scheduled events in counties that have yet to enter a partnership. *Counties may require pre-notification from farmers and others so as to better prepare for the delivery.* Find contact information on waste pesticide disposal by locating your county on the state program schedule:

**[www.mda.state.mn.us/chemicals/spills/wastepesticides.aspx](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/chemicals/spills/wastepesticides.aspx)**

## Pesticide Container Disposal

***Follow label use, storage and disposal instructions.***

- Store pesticides only in the original labeled container**, separated from other products (such as food, feed and seed), and in a locked building with appropriate warning signs.
- Pressure rinse or triple rinse containers** immediately after emptying. Delay in rinsing pesticide containers may result in a residue that, upon drying, is highly resistant to rinsing. Use rinsate as dilution make-up water and apply evenly over labeled crops or sites.
- Dispose of empty paper bags, plastic bags and other types of containers at sanitary landfills.** Contact waste hauler or landfill operator for information.
- Recycle triple-rinsed or pressure-rinsed rigid plastic pesticide containers** through a local empty pesticide container recycling program. Contact your local pesticide retailer for recycling opportunities.
- Do not reuse pesticide containers** unless they are dedicated for reuse or unless they have been cleaned according to the pesticide manufacturer's protocol and are intended to be refilled with pesticides.



*Pesticides damaged in a building fire must be disposed of properly.*

Contact project personnel for additional information about waste pesticides and pesticide container disposal: 651-201-6562