

Guide 10.6 - Pesticides Storage and Application on Worksites

Approved Codes of Practice

[Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products \(Scotland\)](#)

[Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products \(England, Wales & Northern Ireland\)](#)

Storage

- Store Pesticides only in their original container with the lid secured.
- The container should be placed inside a secondary bund such as a transit box or similar.



- The transit box should be **locked** when not in use. (I.e. between fill ups).
- During transit the transit box should be secured to prevent it moving around or tipping over and be in a separate compartment of the vehicle from any occupants.
- The box should carry the general black and yellow warning triangle.
- On site the box should be located at least 10m from watercourses and 50m from any water supply or abstraction point.
- Pesticides should not be left on-site overnight.
- On completion, unused pesticides in full or part used containers should be returned immediately to the main store. Empty containers should be removed from site daily and taken to the assigned disposal point.
- There should be absorbent materials, a shovel and containers or plastic bags in which to carry away any contaminated absorbent material and soil, sufficient and available to deal with any spillage. Cat litter and plastic rubble sacks are acceptable alternatives.



Suppliers of Oil Spill Materials and Kits

Newpig - <http://www.newpig.com/pig/UK/>
Tel: 0800 919900

Fentex - <http://www.fentex.co.uk/>
Tel: 01487 823 184

Application

- Pesticide application should always be done in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and in line with the contract specification and documentation including the CoSHH assessment for the product being used.
- Mixing and measuring should be done out with the buffer area of any watercourse and 50m from any water supply or abstraction point.
- Always measure and mix pesticides over a chemical resistant tray to avoid spillages entering the environment. Any spillages into the tray should be poured carefully into the measuring jug before the tray is carefully rinsed and the washings added to the spray tank.
- The minimum buffer zones for applying pesticides close to watercourses and water bodies are:



5m	10m	20m	50m
Watercourse less than 1m wide	Water course 1m - 2m wide	Watercourse greater than 2m wide	Drinking Water Supply
No pesticide Application	No pesticide Application	No pesticide Application	No pesticide Application
No mixing of pesticides or filling of sprayers	No mixing of pesticides or filling of sprayers	No mixing of pesticides or filling of sprayers	No mixing of pesticides or filling of sprayers
No Pesticide Storage	No Pesticide Storage	No Pesticide Storage	No Pesticide Storage

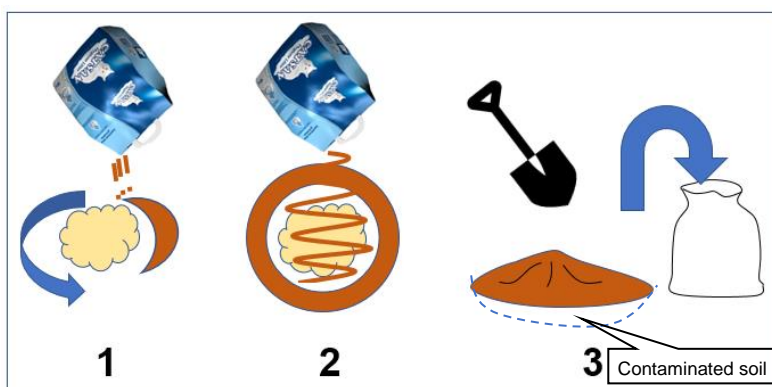
- Flushes and wetland should be considered as part of the watercourse or waterbody.
- Check that drainage ditches have been disconnected from the natural drainage system by a silt trap and filter zone. Any ditch not disconnected must be treated as a watercourse. See Guides 2.01 and 2.03
- Do not apply pesticides to frozen or snow covered ground.
- Do not apply pesticides in heavy rain or to saturated soils when runoff could be a problem.
- Do not apply pesticides when the wind speed is force 3 or above. i.e when leaves and small twigs are in constant motion or wind extends a light flag. (Some applicators may specify a lower wind speed.)
- Spraying equipment must be leak free, properly maintained and calibrated.



Accidental Spillage

- Always wear the appropriate PPE specified in the CoSHH Assessment when dealing with a pesticide spill.
- In the event of any minor spillage of concentrate outside of the mixing tray, such as a splash when pouring, the contractor shall immediately deploy the spill absorbent materials. The spill should be fully absorbed using the absorbent material. Scrape up the absorbent material and any contaminated soil below it and place in a plastic bag for appropriate disposal. See Section 5 Waste below.
- For any spill, outside of the mixing tray, greater than about 100ml of concentrate such as a ruptured or overturned chemical container, or a spill of diluted product from a spilt knapsack.

1. Spread absorbent material around the spill to contain it
2. Cover the spill with absorbent material.
3. Scrape up the spill including any contaminated soil and place in a plastic bag for appropriate disposal



As a priority, keep the contamination away from surface water, ditches and drains. Following successful containment, report the spill to the Scottish Woodlands Manager as an environmental incident.

- **Any spillage where pesticides enters a watercourse**, could contaminate water later, either directly or through a drainage system, contaminates a large amount of soil or where successful containment cannot be achieved should be reported **immediately** and as a matter of urgency, by the contractor, to the Scottish Woodlands Manager. The Scottish Woodlands Manager shall report any potential contamination of watercourses to the relevant regulatory authority (SEPA, EA, NRW, NIEA). (Use the UK wide phone number 0800 807060).
- For leaking containers, place immediately within the mixing tray to limit further contamination then do one of the following:
 1. Use the contents immediately.
 2. Pour the contents of the damaged container into an empty container that originally held the same product. The container should be in good condition and with an undamaged label.
 3. Put the leaking container into a suitable larger container to contain the spill. Never put any pesticides into an empty food or drink container.
- **Do not** flush away spills with water as this will spread the contamination.



Waste

Empty Pesticide Containers

These should be triple rinsed and disposed of as instructed and in line with Guide 2013 Contractor's Guide to the Appropriate Disposal of Scottish Woodlands' Controlled Waste.

Partly used pesticide containers are not waste and should be returned to the appropriate storage facility at the end of the job.

PPE, Equipment Parts, and Contaminated Spill Kits

Items such as coveralls, gloves, knapsack parts and bags containing contaminated spill materials are the responsibility of the contractor and must not be placed in Scottish Woodlands skips or stores. The contractor should take these items to an appropriate disposal site.

Such items should be placed inside a plastic disposal bag and removed from site at the end of the working day.

Additional References

[Forests and Water Guidelines](#)

[Reducing Pesticide Use in Forestry](#)

[FISA Guide 202 - Application of Pesticides Using Hand Held Equipment](#)

[Guidance on Storing Pesticides for Farmers and Professional Users](#)