

NEWS RELEASE
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Storing Pesticides for the Winter

The garden hoe can be sharpened and the handle cleaned for winter storage. Pesticides are also tools that need stored for the winter. Correct storage will keep them safe and viable for next season.

Herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides are all grouped under the heading of pesticides. Information on the product label gives instructions on storage and disposal along with how to use it. Follow the instructions and the product will be safe now and useable next time it is needed. Original containers only. Never transfer pesticides into other bottles or jars. Labels provide critical safety and usage information.

Temperature is one consideration when storing pesticides. Some pesticides can tolerate freezing, but many cannot. Freezing may cause separation of active ingredients, reducing effectiveness next time it is used. Avoid temperature swings which can degrade chemicals faster than steady cold.

Store pesticides in a locked cabinet or shed, away from children, pets, and wildlife. An insulated cabinet or old refrigerator with a lock can work. Ensure lids are tight to prevent leaks.

A good option is to take any leftover product to a household waste collection site. Riley County's site is at 6245 Tuttle Creek Boulevard. They provide a trailer in the morning on the second Saturday of the month located at 625 S. 10th Street in Manhattan.

All empty containers need to be rinsed three times thoroughly before discarding in the trash. Use the rinse water on the intended pest. Do not reuse the container. Punching holes in the container makes it unusable.

Pesticides are one of several tools available to gardeners. Use and store them responsibly along with fertilizer, hand tools, and other equipment.

You can find out more information on this and other horticulture topics by going to the K-State Extension website at www.ksre.ksu.edu. And you contact Gregg Eyestone at the Riley County office of K-State Extension. Gregg may be contacted by calling 537-6350 or stopping by 110 Courthouse Plaza in Manhattan or e-mail: geyeston@ksu.edu