

Frequently asked questions

Q: Can I use more pesticide than the label recommends?

A: It is illegal to apply pesticides at a higher rate (i.e., more product or less water) than the label states.

However, you may use a lower rate than recommended. Keep in mind however, that using a lower rate may result in decreased pest control.

Q: What should I do if I spill a pesticide?

A: Immediately upright the container. Contain the spill with an absorbent material such as sand, kitty litter, or soil.

Put all of the contaminated material in a double plastic bag and place it in the trash. If the spill occurs on a hard surface, scrub the surface with soapy water until all traces of the pesticide are gone. Do not hose down a pesticide spill area. If the spill occurs indoors, ventilate the area.

Q: What should I do if I spill a pesticide on myself?

A: Remove contaminated clothing and immediately wash the area of the body exposed to the pesticide with soap and water.

If the clothing was saturated with undiluted pesticide product directly from the container, the clothing should be wrapped in newspaper and disposed of in the trash. Check the pesticide label for further instructions.

Home PEST seeks to provide homeowners with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about pesticides.

This publication is available from your county Cooperative Extension office.

The Home PEST project was developed by the University of Wisconsin-Extension Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) program.

Any reference to pesticide products are for your convenience and are not an endorsement or criticism of one product over other similar products.

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#6 - Mixing Pesticides

Use caution when mixing pesticides



Home PEST

Home Pesticide Education & Safety Training
University of Wisconsin-Extension

Mix Pesticides Safely

When you handle a pesticide product, you are handling the pesticide in its most concentrated and hazardous form. To avoid mishaps, be prepared before you open the container:

- Only mix pesticides if the weather is suitable for spraying (e.g., little wind, no rain expected).
- Read the entire label. The label contains all of the information you will need to properly handle a pesticide. For more information on how to read a pesticide label, refer to Home PEST brochure #5, "Reading Pesticide Labels."
- Collect all of the equipment you will need to mix and apply the pesticide and clean up afterward.

- Wear the proper personal protective clothing and equipment when you mix or apply pesticides. Check the pesticide label and see Home PEST brochure #10, "Personal Protective Equipment."
- Calibrate your sprayer before mixing the pesticide to ensure that you apply the correct amount of pesticide uniformly over the target area.

For more information on calibration, refer to the Home PEST brochures #8, "Hand Sprayer Calibration" and #9, "Spreader Calibration."

Mixing Pesticides

'Mix' or 'mixing' includes measuring the amount of pesticide needed, pouring that amount into your sprayer, and filling the sprayer with water.

Precautions

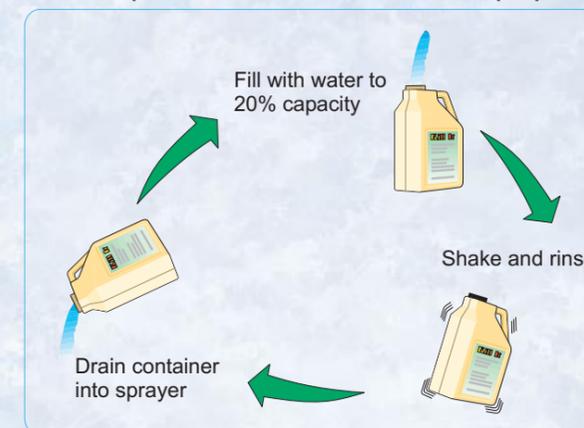
- Mix pesticides on your lawn or in your garden, away from a well or surface water.
- Do not smoke, drink, or eat while mixing pesticides.
- Do not mix a pesticide with another pesticide or chemical unless the combination is listed on the label.
- Mix a pesticide and water in the proportions specified on the label.

When filling the sprayer with water, do not place the end of the garden hose into the sprayer. Instead, leave an air gap between the top of the sprayer and the hose nozzle, or fill the sprayer with water from a bucket. This will prevent the pesticide from siphoning back into the hose and into your drinking water supply.

- After filling, store the pesticide product away from children or pets. **Never leave the sprayer unattended.**

Step-by-Step Guide

- 1) Fill the sprayer with about half as much water as needed.
- 2) Measure the amount of pesticide needed per tankful and pour it into the tank. Use measuring spoons or cups designated solely for this purpose.
- 3) Rinse the measuring tool with water three times, and pour the rinse water into the sprayer.
- 4) If you empty the pesticide container, immediately rinse it **3 times** with water and pour the rinse water into the sprayer:



Dispose of the container; do not reuse it for any purpose.

- 5) Add the remaining amount of water required to the sprayer.
- 6) Agitate the mix as needed.