

Annual Obsolete Pesticide Collection

The program

The Board of Pesticides Control (BPC) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) provide Maine citizens with a responsible, free opportunity to dispose of their obsolete pesticides. Once a year, these agencies collect obsolete, banned, or otherwise unusable pesticides for secure disposal. The program is available to homeowners, family farms and greenhouses.

How to participate

1. Obtain an Obsolete Pesticide Inventory form online at thinkfirstspraylast.org, or call the BPC at (207) 287-2731 to have one mailed to you.
2. Fill out the form completely. Describe unidentified products in as much detail as possible.
3. Store unwanted pesticides properly until the date of the collection. BPC staff will contact you two weeks prior to the collection to inform you of your local collection date and location. Travel directions with a map, transport instructions, and two copies of shipping papers will be mailed to you.
4. Safely pack and transport your pesticides to the assigned site on the collection date. At the appropriate time.

Safe storage and transportation

Until the day of the collection, safe storage practices remain the best way to prevent a health or environmental crisis from occurring in your backyard.

- Keep pesticides high, dry and locked away from kids and pets.
- Dry materials should be free of moisture and wrapped in heavy duty plastic bags.
- If a bottle, bag, or other container leaks, call DEP for advice on proper cleanup.
- Never transport pesticides in the interior of your vehicle. Use the truck bed or the car trunk and brace items to prevent shifting while traveling.
- During travel, keep emergency numbers and one copy of the shipping papers on yourself. Keep the other copy in your vehicle in case an accident requires you leave the vehicle and inform authorities.
- Drive directly to the pesticide collection site after you load your vehicle. Drive carefully, please! You are responsible for any spills and their subsequent clean-up costs.

Prevention

The best way to prevent obsolete pesticides is to buy the right product and only enough for a given job.

- Know your pest. Not sure?
 - ◆ Visit our GotPests.org site
 - ◆ Call the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Pest Management Office at 1-800-287-0279
 - ◆ Call the Maine Forest Service at (207) 287-2791
- Make sure the product you buy controls that pest. If the pest is not listed on a product's label, the product is not for you!
- Avoid volume and buy-one-get-one-free promotions. The dollar or two saved today can later cost hundreds in hazardous waste disposal fees.
- Surplus pesticides can be difficult to store properly.
- Keep products in good condition. Don't let liquids freeze or moisture damage dry materials.
- Give recently purchased pesticides you no longer need to someone who does. **The best way to dispose of a pesticide is to use it according to its labeled directions.**

For questions and more information:

Maine Board of Pesticides Control

Tel. 207-287-2731

thinkfirstspraylast.org

