

Pesticide Storage and Handling: Assessing Drinking Water Contamination Risk

1. Use a pencil. You may want to make changes.
2. For each category listed on the left that is appropriate to your farmstead, read across to the right and circle the statement that **best** describes conditions on your farmstead. (Skip and leave blank any categories that don't apply to your farmstead.)
3. Then look above the description you circled to find your "rank number" (4, 3, 2 or 1) and enter that number in the blank under "your rank."
4. Directions on overall scoring appear at the end of the worksheet.
5. Allow about 15-30 minutes to complete the worksheet and figure out your risk ranking for pesticide storage and handling practices.

	RANK 4	RANK 3	RANK 2	RANK 1	YOUR RANK
PESTICIDE STORAGE					
Amount stored	No pesticides stored at any time.	Less than 1 gallon or less than 10 pounds of each pesticide.	More than 1 gallon or more than 10 pounds of each pesticide.	More than 55 gallons or more than 550 pounds of each pesticide.	_____
Types stored: Leachability*	No chemicals stored.	Chemicals classified as having low leaching potential.	Chemicals classified as having medium leaching potential.	Chemicals classified as having high leaching potential.	_____
Liquid or dry formulation	No liquids. All dry.	Some liquids. Mostly dry.	Mostly liquids. Some dry.	All liquids.	_____
Spill or leak control in storage area	Impermeable surface (such as concrete) does not allow spills to soak into soil. Curb installed on floor to contain leaks and spills.	Impermeable surface with curb installed has some cracks, allowing spills to get to soil. OR impermeable surface without cracks has no curb installed.	Permeable surface (wooden floor) has some cracks. Impermeable surface has no curb. Spills could contaminate wood or soil.	Permeable surface (gravel or dirt floor). Spills could contaminate floor.	_____
Containers	Original containers clearly labeled. No holes, tears or weak seams.	Original containers old. Labels partially missing or hard to read.	Containers old but patched. Metal containers show signs of rusting.	Containers have holes or tears that allow chemicals to leak. No labels.	_____

*See attached Pesticide Leachability Chart.

	RANK 4	RANK 3	RANK 2	RANK 1	YOUR RANK
PESTICIDE STORAGE (continued)					
Security	Fenced or locked area separate from all other activities.	Fenced area separate from most other activities.	Open to activities that could damage containers or spill chemicals.	Open access to theft, vandalism and children.	_____
MIXING AND LOADING PRACTICES					
Location of well in relation to mixing/loading area with no curbed and impermeable containment area	100 feet or more downslope from well.	50-100 feet downslope from well.	10-50 feet downslope from well, or 100-500 feet upslope.	Within 10 feet downslope or within 100 feet upslope from well.	_____
Mixing and loading pad (Spill containment)	Concrete pad with curb keeps spills contained. Sump allows collection and transfer to storage.	Concrete pad with curb keeps spills contained. No sump.	Concrete pad with some cracks keeps some spills contained. No curb or sump.	No mixing/loading pad. Permeable soil (sand). Spills soak into ground.	_____
Backflow prevention on water supply	Anti-backflow device installed or 6-inch air gap maintained above sprayer tank.	Anti-backflow device installed. Hose in tank above waterline.	No anti-backflow device. Hose in tank above waterline.	No anti-backflow device. Hose in tank below water line.	_____
Water source	Separate water tank.	Hydrant away from well.	Hydrant near well.	Obtained directly from well.	_____
Filling supervision	Constant	_____	Frequent	Seldom or never.	_____

	RANK 4	RANK 3	RANK 2	RANK 1	YOUR RANK
MIXING AND LOADING PRACTICES (continued)					
Handling system	Closed system for all liquid and dry product transfers.	Closed system for most liquids. Some liquid and dry product hand poured. Sprayer fill port easy to reach.	All liquids and dry product hand poured. Sprayer fill port easy to reach.	All liquids and dry product hand poured. Sprayer fill port hard to reach.	_____
Sprayer cleaning and rinsate (rinse water) disposal	Sprayer washed out in field. Rinsate used in next load and applied to labeled crop.	Sprayer washed out on pad at farmstead. Rinsate used in next load and applied to labeled crop.	Sprayer washed out at farmstead. Rinsate sprayed less than 100 feet from well.	Sprayer washed out at farmstead. Rinsate dumped at farmstead or in field.	_____
CONTAINER DISPOSAL					
Disposal location	Triple-rinsed containers returned to dealers or taken to licensed landfill or municipal incinerator. Bags returned to supplier or hazardous waste collection service used.	Unrinsed containers and empty bags taken to licensed landfill, municipal incinerator or dump.	Disposal of unrinsed containers or empty bags on farm. Disposal of triple-rinsed containers on farm. Disposal of container in a manner inconsistent with the label.	Disposal of partially filled plastic or paper containers on farm. Disposal of container in a manner inconsistent with the label.	_____

Boldface type: Besides representing a higher-risk choice, this practice also violates New Mexico law.

TOTAL

Use this total to calculate risk ranking on back page of worksheet.