

ACRE

ALLIANCE FOR A
CLEAN
RURAL
ENVIRONMENT

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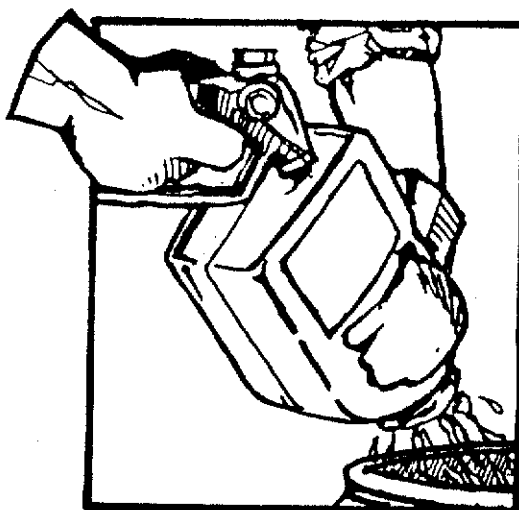
Farmers and ranchers are often concerned about disposing of potentially hazardous ag chemicals and their containers. This Fact Sheet provides an overview of the disposal options available to them.

ALL TRASH IS NOT ALIKE

Most ordinary trash in the U.S. is disposed of in sanitary landfills. However, these sites are generally prohibited from accepting waste classified as hazardous by the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Since contaminated ag chemical containers and waste chemicals often fall into this category, farmers often have difficulty disposing of these properly.

The first part of the solution is to rinse the chemical containers properly. Rinsed containers aren't hazardous. Laboratory tests have shown that proper rinsing results in essentially harmless, nearly residue free containers, regardless of which

DISPOSING OF AG CHEMICAL CONTAINERS



ag chemical they originally contained.

Probably the fastest, most efficient and convenient container rinse method is pressure rinsing. Special hose-end attachments are available which easily puncture plastic and metal containers, producing a forceful spray inside the empty container. By holding the container over the opening to the spray rig or holding tank while rinsing, rinse water can be captured as it drains from the container spout. Contact ACRE for more information on puncture - rinse attachments.

Triple rinsing can be as effective as pressure rinsing, although it is more time consuming and labor intensive.

DISPOSING OF RINSED CONTAINERS

Rinsed according to label directions, ag chemical containers are classified as ordinary solid

waste. Be aware, however, that some waste disposal operators will still turn away rinsed containers, even if they have adequate landfill capacity.

States also have jurisdiction over burning and burying containers on private property. While these disposal methods don't violate federal laws, the states frequently apply different rules. For example, open burning and burial of containers is outlawed in some states.

RECYCLING CONTAINERS

Collection and recycling programs are being organized in a number of states as pilot programs. But the success of any disposal or recycling program hinges on the guarantee that only properly rinsed containers will be brought in by farmers. Without this guarantee, landfill operators and recyclers, wary of handling hazardous waste, won't accept the containers. If you have the opportunity to participate in a recycling program, be sure to rinse all containers properly. Contact the National Agricultural Chemicals Association (202-296-1585) for more information about recycling programs near you.

To learn more about the requirements for hazardous waste treatment and disposal, contact the EPA hazardous waste hotline at 800-424-9346.

The Alliance for a Clean Rural Environment (ACRE) is a non-profit, non-political organization that encourages environmental stewardship and protection of water quality, supported by the makers of America's crop protection chemicals.