

# MDA PESTICIDE INFORMATION SHEET

Maryland Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Regulation Section  
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
Telephone: (410)841-5710 FAX: (410)841-2765 Internet: [www.mda.state.md.us](http://www.mda.state.md.us)

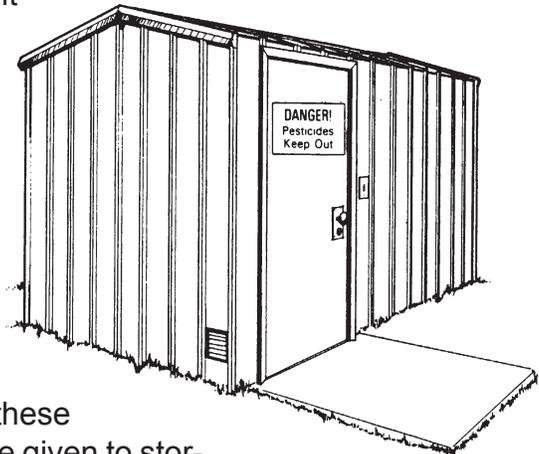
No. 11

## STORAGE and TRANSPORT

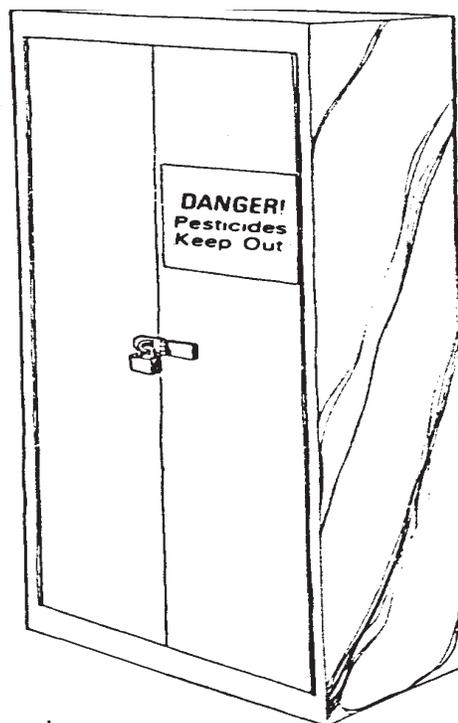
Revised regulations pertaining to the storage and transport of non-bulk pesticides [Non-bulk is considered to be any single container capable of holding 55 gallons or less.] went into effect October 25, 1993. The changes were recommended to the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) by the Governor's Pesticide Council in response to concerns raised by private citizens and the pesticide industry. These regulations pertain to all individuals, or businesses, that maintain a pesticide applicator certificate, license, or permit with MDA.

The regulations require that pesticides be stored according to a minimum set of standards. Many of these standards are common sense requirements that can be implemented with little effort and expense. The requirements will help to ensure that pesticides are being stored in a manner that will minimize the potential for adverse environmental impact. The following is a list of the minimum requirements for the storage of pesticides:

- Pesticides must be physically separated from living and working areas, as well as be physically separated from food, feed and fertilizers. Although a separate storage building for pesticides is not required, it should be considered. Refer to Figure 1 as a model design for a medium to large storage structure. The use of prefabricated storage buildings, truck trailers, or shipping containers would meet these requirements. Fencing or walls could be constructed to separate the pesticides within a structure. Another alternative for smaller pest control operations that do not store large quantities of pesticides could be to use storage cabinets to meet these requirements. Consideration should also be given to storing herbicides apart from other pesticides, since some herbicides can vaporize and contaminate other pesticides stored nearby.



- The storage building or area must be locked, or secured, to prevent unauthorized persons from gaining access.
- A warning sign must be posted on the exterior of all storage buildings, areas, or cabinets. This is very important in the case of an emergency, such as a fire, because it enables emergency personnel to take the necessary precautions to protect themselves, as well as to properly control the fire.



- The storage area must have ventilation to allow the exchange of air in order to prevent the buildup of fumes. Exhaust fans are not required unless there is no other way to properly vent the storage area. However, the use of exhaust fans and heaters should be considered. They can protect pesticides from overheating and freezing, which can reduce a pesticide's effectiveness or cause breakage of containers.
- Pesticides must be stored in a clean, dry area.
- Containers, including bags, must be properly labeled and free of leaks and tears. If there is a leak or tear, place the pesticide into another container, such as a bucket or plastic bag, and make sure that it is properly labeled.
- Minimum emergency equipment must be on hand in the storage area. This includes a fire extinguisher rated for chemical fires and absorbent material, such as kitty litter, sawdust, or vermiculite, to clean up spills. There should be enough material on hand to handle a spill of the largest container held in storage. There is no set amount of absorbent material required for each of the different container volumes, but make sure there is an adequate supply to manage an emergency if it should arise.
- Pesticides must be stored at least 50 feet away from any well. If stored within 50 feet of a water well, pesticides must be placed within secondary containment. Secondary containment could consist of a curbed or diked floor in the storage building and should be considered in the design of a new building. To insure that leaks or spills will be confined, the use of metal or plastic drip pans, or similar devices in which pesticide containers can be placed, will be acceptable. There are commercially available catch basins that can be utilized. Another alternative would be to place containers in some type of pan, such as aluminum roasting pans. This is an important practice that can reduce the potential for pesticides to enter and contaminate ground water supplies as wells provide direct access to the ground water. In addition, providing secondary containment is cheaper than drilling a new well to replace one that has become contaminated.

Another area of concern is the transport of pesticide containers and application equipment. The regulations require that all pesticide containers, including full and empty containers, as well as bags, be secured during transport to prevent them from shifting or falling off the vehicle. Utility boxes or enclosed storage compartments could be used to meet these requirements. An added benefit to using either of these methods is that they also provide additional security by limiting access to the pesticides. Tie downs, such as ropes, rubber straps or bungee cords can be used to secure containers. Minibulk and bulk containers such as Farmpaks or Shuttles must also be secured in order to prevent them from shifting or falling off the vehicle. This can be accomplished through the use of a come-along, tie downs, or by blocking and bracing the containers.

Application equipment, such as hand sprayers, must be secured to prevent shifting. Hatches and valves must be secured to prevent the release of pesticides. In addition, nozzles, hoses, and other sprayer fittings should be in good repair to prevent the leaking or release of pesticides. Spray guns can be placed in buckets to ensure that any dripping of pesticides will be contained by the bucket.

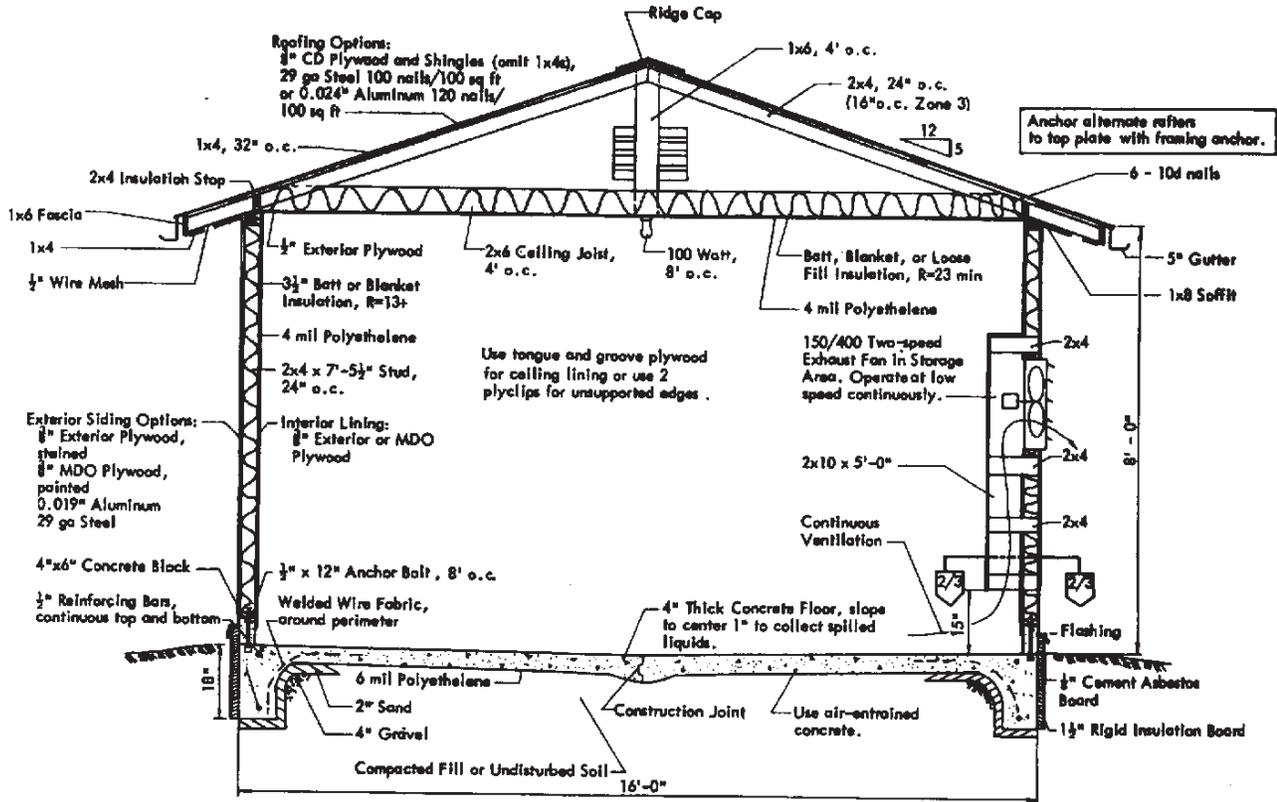
Finally, pesticides shall not be placed, or carried, in the same compartment as the driver, food, or feed unless it is carried in a manner that provides adequate protection for the safety and health of passengers in the vehicle. This can be accomplished through the use of storage boxes that can be latched and secured.

If you have further questions concerning these requirements, please contact the:

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**FIGURE 1**  
**MEDIUM TO LARGE SIZED**  
**PESTICIDE STORAGE STRUCTURE**  
**(MODEL DESIGN)**



**CROSS SECTION - 1/3**

This drawing was taken from the publication "On-Farm Agrichemical Storage And Handling", Extension Bulletin E-2335, produced by the Cooperative Extension Service at Michigan State University.

