

# UF/IFAS Extension Hendry County

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## Pesticide Storage – Bullet Points

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Storing pesticides properly protects human and animal health, safeguards wells and surface waters, and prevents unauthorized access to hazardous chemicals. Proper pesticide storage and inventory practices will prolong the shelf-life of pesticides and make it easier to track your pesticide usage so that you can plan purchases for future years.

Your job is not finished until the pesticides, containers, and your equipment have been put away properly. While you are cleaning up and putting away the pesticides, containers, and equipment you should wear all the personal protective equipment you used on the job. Consider wearing gloves and other protective equipment, even if they weren't recommended on the label. Spills and accidental contamination often occur during storage procedures.

### Goals of This Chapter

- Learn how to read the label to find information on storing pesticides properly
- Know how to choose the best site for pesticide storage

- Understand how to properly arrange a storage area for pesticides.
- Understand the importance of handling, storing, and disposing of pesticides properly.
- Be familiar with safety procedures to protect yourself and others when storing pesticides
- Learn what to do in case of a pesticide spill.
- Reducing the amount of pesticide you store lowers the risk of chemical fires, explosions, or spills that contaminate well water, surface water or the soil. Make every effort to limit storage by buying only the amount of pesticide that you need for a specific job or for the current growing season.
- In addition to safety concerns, storage of large amounts of pesticides on site is a tempting target for thieves.
- The pesticide label is the best guide to storage requirements for every product. The Safety Data Sheet (SDS) provides additional information on normal appearance and odor as well as flash point, fire control recommendations, boiling point, and solubility.
- Make habit of storing all your materials safely before you clean up and go home, or on to the next job.