PMA Newsletter

TEL: 0861 99 99 00

Pest Management Academy

www.pestmanagementacademy.com August 2011

Pest Management Academy

DISPOSING OF EMPTY PESTICIDE CONTAINERS

Pest Control applicators are legally responsible for "properly" disposing of empty pesticide containers. Department of Agriculture approves the wording of the disposal directions on a pesticide label and the authorities enforce compliance with these disposal directions. Proper rinsing of empty containers is mandatory by law for many products.

The number of non refillable pesticide containers requiring disposal each year is staggering. Fortunately, there are more facilities and procedures to recycle plastic, glass, and metal aerosol pesticide containers. There is also an increasing trend towards refillable and water-soluble pesticide packaging which reduces the load on landfills and collection/recycling programs.
Unfortunately, empty pesticide containers aren't really empty. Even when plastic containers have been triple-rinsed or pressure-rinsed, and pressurized aerosols have been sprayed until no insecticide comes out of the can, and bags have been tapped and shaken to remove dry residues, the containers still contain measurable amounts of pesticide. Empty pesticide containers often contain far more than just trace amounts of pesticide because:

1. Many users do not triple-rinse or pressure rinse. Somewhere between 15 and 50 percent of rinsable pesticide containers are not rinsed.
2. Applicators may rinse containers too late in the game to be effective. Certain formulations dry out and cake if residues are left unrinsed for long periods. Once hardened, residues often cannot be removed by triple-rinsing. Pressure rinsing a container is faster than triple-rinsing and is more likely to remove pesticides residue. Pressure rinsing can be used on plastic and non-pressurized containers, but not on glass containers.
3. Aerosol cans may be discarded too soon because of spray irregularities that sometimes occur as the last 10 percent or so of the contents are applied.
4. Some aerosols run out of pressure before they run out of contents if the container isn't held level during treatment.
5. Dry formulations in bags are difficult to empty completely.

Even after you've properly rinsed or emptied a pesticide container, it still needs to be "conditioned" for recycling. You should remove all labels and sleeves and remove all caps and handles that are not made of high density polyethylene. Then clean the exterior of the container. Be sure to check the label.

General Pest Control 22-24 August 2011 PRETORIA

PEST MANAGEMENT ACADEMY INTERNATIONAL RECOGNISED SKILLS PROGRAMS FOR AUGUST-DECEMBER 2011

GENERAL PEST CONTROL PROGRAM
22-24 AUGUST 2011 PRETORIA
19-21 SEPT 2011 PRETORIA
10-12 OCTOBER 2011 PRETORIA
7-9 NOVEMBER 2011 PRETORIA
5-7 DECEMBER 2011 PRETORIA

WEED CONTROL
26-28 SEPTEMBER 2011 PRETORIA
21-23 NOVEMBER 2011 PRETORIA

TERMITE & WOOD DESTROYING ORGANISMS
25-27 OCTOBER 2011 PRETORIA
28-30 NOVEMBER 2011 PRETORIA

FUMIGATION
15-17 AUGUST 2011 PRETORIA
31 OCTOBER-2 NOV 2011 PRETORIA

PLANT PEST & DISEASES
26-28 SEPTEMBER 2011 PRETORIA
21-23 NOVEMBER 2011 PRETORIA

PMA COURSES ARE ACCREDITED BY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AGRISETA & SAQA
ALL TRAINING COURSES AT A COST OF R4150

REMEMBER PESTBIZ 2011 CONFERENCE 17 & 18 AUGUST 2011 AT BIRCHWOOD HOTEL AND CONERENCE CENTRE, JOHANNESBURG