

What's the Risk?

Storing Pesticides



THE ISSUE

Pesticides are utilized to prevent, control, or eradicate pests such as insects, weeds, or diseases. In Ontario, farmers that meet the qualifications set out in section 43 of Regulation 63/09, including passing the Grower Pesticide Safety Course, can buy and use most Class B and C pesticides on their farm without an exterminator's licence. Additionally, and more importantly they must adhere to regulations concerning the safe storage of pesticides on their farm.



WHAT'S THE RISK?

Improper storage of pesticides can lead to container damage and subsequent hazardous leaks. Not only are pesticides poisonous if ingested but breathing fumes or contact with skin or eyes can also be dangerous to both humans and animals. Inadequate storage can lead to contamination of surface and groundwater endangering the health of streams, lakes, and other water sources.



WHAT CAN BE DONE?

The following tips can help to reduce the potential for damage when storing pesticides:

- Keep pesticides away from all food or drink, whether it be for human or animal consumption
- Store all pesticides in their original containers and ensure they are clearly labeled
- Store pesticides in a locked area and keep them away from children
- Ensure any spills are cleaned up immediately to prevent the spilled material from entering a water source
- Clearly mark pesticide storage areas with the proper signs
- Store only a minimal quantity of pesticides to limit damage potential
- Ensure there are no floor drains in any pesticide storage areas

