

Work environment – Rural safety

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Chemicals – storage and disposal >

This bulletin outlines some simple safety guidelines for those working in the rural industry and is one of a series of on Rural Industry safety.

Read the label

- It provides advice on safe handling, storage and use. The chemical's identity and toxicity are also given.

Read the MSDS

- NOHSC - requires chemical manufacturers to supply to you Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS). These sheets provide detailed information on health hazard information, precautions for use and safe handling information as well as chemical data. MSDSs also provide information on storage and disposal procedures. MSDSs are available from chemical suppliers.

**Storing chemicals**

- Store in a well ventilated and well lit shed that is lockable and has an impervious floor and impervious shelving.
- Storage sheds must not be in flood areas.
- Check the label for advice about storage.
- Store away from respirators, protective clothing and equipment.
- Keep pesticides separate from animal feeds, fertilisers, seeds and other chemicals.
- Ensure appropriate materials are located close by to clean up any spills. These may include soil, water, absorbent pillows, lime or sand.
- Store the chemical in the **original** containers, with labels intact. If labels come off always relabel the container.
- **Never** store chemicals in drink or food containers.
- Keep incompatible chemicals separated. A brochure showing how to recognise and segregate different classes of dangerous goods is available from NT WorkSafe.

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Disposal

- Check the label for advice on disposal of chemicals or containers.
- Triple rinse empty containers to remove all traces of the chemical.
- Uncap, puncture and crush all rinsed containers.
- Where possible return containers to the manufacturer or supplier; or ask your local government what their requirements are for disposal.

Don't burn containers.

Transport

- Avoid transporting with food, water, animal feed or other reactive hazardous substances (see storing chemicals).
- Secure hazardous substances on the vehicle so they can't move or fall.
- Keep a record of the chemicals you are carrying.

Care for the environment

- Observe any warnings on the label regarding toxicity to non-target areas (animals or plants).
- Contact NT WorkSafe or the Department of Business, Industry & Resource Development – Primary Industry and Fisheries (08) 8999 2272 or the Office of Environment and Heritage (08) 8924 4139 for further information on the procedures for safe disposal of containers or remaining chemicals.

CORRECT storage and disposal of chemicals on your property will ensure the health and safety of yourself and others.

Do you:

- always read the label and the MSDS first?
- ensure chemicals are stored in an appropriate secure place?
- follow acceptable practices for disposal?

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NT WorkSafe >

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