



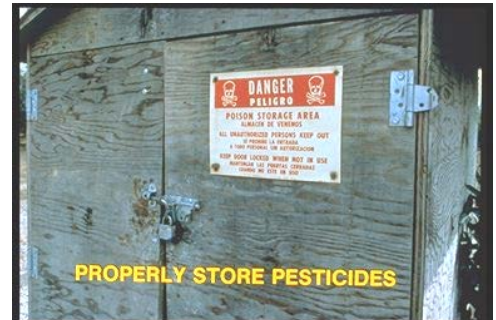
Pesticide Safety – Storage

Why is Pesticide Storage Important?

Most pesticides are toxic to people, animals, and the environment. Keeping pesticides properly stored when not in use is key to preventing accidental poisonings or environmental hazards.

Guidelines for Storing Pesticides Safely

- Store all pesticides in a **locked** and well **ventilated** storage shed or cabinet.
 - For ground water protection storage area should have an impermeable concrete floor, not a dirt or wood floor.
 - Storage area should protect pesticide containers from rain and high humidity.
 - Storage area should be far from any food areas. Many foods absorb traces of pesticide chemicals if exposed.
- NEVER STORE PESTICIDES IN HOUSEHOLD CONTAINERS, ESPECIALLY FOOD AND DRINK CONTAINERS.
- Post a sign on the outside of storage area to warn people of potential danger. Include an easily understood symbol such as skull and crossbones.
- Regularly check stored pesticides for leaking or weak spots in containers.
- If leaking or spills have occurred, quickly contain and clean up pesticides. Rope off area to prevent others from accidentally exposing themselves to chemicals.
 - Remember to wear personal protection equipment (PPE) before cleaning up spills.



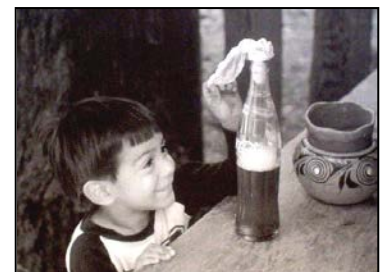
Lockable secure pesticide shed¹



Symbols are easily understood²

Common Pesticide Storage Mistakes

- Storing pesticides in unmarked containers, or reusing household containers.
- Leaving pesticides in sprayer.
 - This can corrode or “gum up” sprayer parts.
- Cleaning pesticide spills in storage area without first wearing personal protection equipment.
 - Toxic fumes from concentrated pesticides can build up in storage sheds with poor ventilation and be very dangerous to workers.



Stored pesticide in soda bottle is a danger to children³

Prepared by Frank Zalom, Pat Thompson, Mark Henderson and Mark Bell, July 2009

References: Pesticide Safety for Small Farms, UC ANR Pub. 21555
The Safe and Effective Use of Pesticides, UC ANR Pub. 3324

Photo Credit: ¹Pesticide Management Education Program – Cornell Cooperative Extension, ²elversonpuzzle.com, ³The Safe and Effective Use of Pesticides – UC IPM

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