



Pesticide Container Recycling



Everyone who uses or handles pesticides has a role in protecting the environment. Proper cleaning and disposing of pesticide containers is an important part of pesticide and environmental stewardship. Since 1990, Iowa pesticide users have recycled more than 5 million pounds of plastic pesticide containers by participating in a pesticide container recycling program. The recycling program has reduced the volume of pesticide containers that are disposed in sanitary landfills or burned, and enhanced the recovery of plastic resources. Surface and groundwater sources are also protected from contamination by the proper management and disposal of both pesticide rinsate and containers.

The Agribusiness Association of Iowa, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Iowa State University (ISU) participate in and help promote Iowa's pesticide container recycling program. The Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC) is the nonprofit organization of crop protection product manufacturers, packagers, and formulators that sponsors the pesticide container recycling program nationwide. In 2008 the ACRC awarded Container Services Network LLC (CSN) a three-year contract to coordinate Iowa's container recycling program.

Which containers can be recycled under the ACRC program?

- Non-refillable containers made from high density polyethylene (HDPE), embossed with recycling symbol #2.
- Containers used for EPA-registered products labeled for agriculture, forestry, vegetative management, and specialty pest control, and containers holding adjuvants, crop oils, and surfactants.
- Containers for products applied by private or commercial applicators. No veterinary, consumer, or home and garden protection products.
- All sizes up to 55 gallon drums.

How should containers be prepared?

- Rinse containers immediately after contents have been emptied. Residues may dry and be extremely difficult to remove if the containers are allowed to sit too long before rinsing.
- Always wear personal protective equipment when handling and cleaning containers.
- Remove and dispose of all non-HDPE parts, such as caps, metal handles, and rubber linings, separately. Remove any attached labels and booklets.
- Drain containers into spray tank for 30 seconds.
- Triple rinse or pressure rinse containers and let dry.
- Store containers so the inside surfaces remain dry.



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Acceptable containers for recycling are clean and dry. They may be stained but cannot have any residue, liquid or dried, on the inside or outside of the container. The site coordinator and contractor's agent will be responsible for inspecting and approving the condition of containers for pickup.

Several Iowa DNR Landfills or Recycling Centers accept clean pesticide containers for recycling. The sites accepting containers currently include: Butler County, Cedar County Transfer Station, Cherokee County Solid Waste, Clinton County Solid Waste, Council Bluffs Recycling Center, Floyd-Mitchell-Chickasaw SWA, Great River Regional Waste Authority, Grundy County Landfill, Guthrie County Transfer Station, Jackson County Transfer Station, Lee County Landfill, Marshall County Landfill, Newton Sanitary Landfill, North Central Iowa Regional Landfill, Ottumwa-Wapello Recycling Center, Waste Commission of Scott County, and Wright County Landfill.

 **cropland** A new container recycling company, CONTAINERS INC Cropland Containers Inc.

(www.croplandcontainers.com), located in Webster City, Iowa, accepts the clean pesticide containers covered under ACRC as well as steel containers, mini-bulks, intermediate bulk containers (IBCs), and closed loop containers that are not covered by the ACRC.

Procedure for triple rinsing

- Fill the empty container about one-fourth full of water and replace cap securely. Shake contents thoroughly to rinse all inside surfaces.
- Pour rinse water into spray tank and drain for at least 30 seconds.
- Repeat process at least two more times until container looks clean.

Procedure for pressure rinsing

- Puncture the side of the container with a special pressure-rinsing nozzle that is attached to a water hose.
- Remove the cap and hold container upside down over the spray tank so rinsate flows into tank.
- Rinse for at least 30 seconds while rotating the nozzle to rinse all interior surfaces.

How it works

Container Services Network provides program participants large tote bags to store their clean, properly rinsed containers until pickup. Each bag holds about 60 pounds of pesticide containers. All containers 5 gallons or less must be put in bags. Containers over 5 gallons will be loaded loose onto the truck. CSN will coordinate with each agribusiness organization and collection point to schedule pickups. The program includes recycling of all approved plastic crop protection containers up to 55 gallons at no charge. CSN will also pick up mini-bulk containers that have been properly rinsed and cut into 2 foot wide strips.

To schedule a pickup or to request bags, contact Gary Glickman or Laura McKibbon with CSN at (866) 225-6629.



www.ContainerServicesNetwork.com



The information presented here has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement BG-99781709 to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. It has not been subjected to the Agency's product and administrative review and therefore might not necessarily reflect the views of the Agency; no official endorsement should be inferred.

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Cathann A. Kress, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.

