



# Information

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Check out the Pesticide Education and Assessment Program web site at <http://pesticide.umd.edu>

## Disposal of Household Pesticide Products

### Pesticide Information Leaflet No. 38

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Pesticides (insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, herbicides or weed killers, etc.) are designed to be toxic. Even in very small quantities, some can have a substantial adverse impact on sensitive organisms. Improper disposal of pesticides or their containers can lead to environmental contamination and may incur both civil and criminal penalties. There is usually no safe and legal way to dispose of leftover pesticide; all of the chemical must be used up on registered sites or crops according to directions on the label. Even when empty, small residues cling to the sides of the container; therefore, no pesticide container should ever be reused for any other purpose.

In September 2001, EPA issued guidance on disposal of empty non-antimicrobial, residential/household use pesticide products. For purposes of the guidance, EPA defined these products to be residential/household use pesticide products, regardless of the size of the container, if both of the following criteria are met:

1. the intended use of the product is in or around a household or resident, and it is to be used by the resident; or

2. the product is regularly available to household customers for purchase, and of a size and type practicable for household use, regardless of whether it is also marketed for agricultural use.

Empty pesticide containers should be placed in the trash or offered for recycling, if available. They should not be wrapped first, as wrapping containers does not provide reliable protection to sanitation workers and may result in accidental or unknown exposures. Pressurized containers should never be punctured or incinerated.

Full or partly filled containers should not be placed in the trash. If the product cannot be used up according to label directions, you must contact a local solid waste authority. In Maryland, call the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Hazardous Waste Program at 410-631-3345. Some counties or municipalities have programs to pick up leftover household waste, including pesticides. Representatives at MDE should be able to advise you on the status of such programs in your own area.

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