



Greenhouse Pest Message, November 5, 2021

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Winter Storage of Pesticides

With the on-going supply chain shortages, you may have bought extra pesticides ahead of the spring growing season. While it is generally best to try to not carry over pesticides and order just what you need for a season, it is also important to have product on-hand when you need it. Many of the newer products have much lower use rates than older products, so you may still have some pesticides on hand that need to be carried over from season to season.

While safety, security and environmental impact are the major concerns when storing pesticides, maintaining the quality of pesticides is also important during winter storage.

Here are some tips for winter storage of pesticides:

- Plan pesticide purchases so that supplies are used by the end of the growing season.
- Keep pesticides at temperatures above freezing, under dry conditions and out of direct sunlight. Pesticides should not be stored in basements or outdoors.
- Read the label. Special storage recommendations or restrictions will be printed on the label.
- Many microbial insecticides and biological fungicides have expiration dates that are printed on their labels!
- Write the purchase or delivery date of the product on the label with waterproof ink. Products may lose their effectiveness over several years.
- Ventilation is important for storage of most pesticides.
- Store herbicides separately from other pesticides to avoid cross contamination.

Below is a list of **pesticide formulations** and their **general sign of quality deterioration**:

- Emulsifiable Concentrate (EC) – Evidence of separation of components such as sludge or sediment. Milky appearance does not occur when water is added.
- Oils – Milky appearance does not occur when water is added.
- Wettable powder (WP) and Soluble powder (SP) – Excessive lumping; powder does not suspend in water.
- Granular (G) – Excessive lumping or caking

If a pesticide freezes, place it in warm storage (50° to 80°F). Shake or roll container every few hours to mix product or eliminate layering. If layering persists or if all crystals do not completely dissolve, do not use product. If in doubt, call the manufacturer or technical representative for more information

Adapted from: New England Vegetable Management
Guide: <https://nevegetable.org/>

For more: [Pesticide Storage](#) By John Bartok Jr., Agricultural Engineer and Emeritus Extension Professor, University of Connecticut

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