

- You may have some old pesticides on your farm which have been banned
- New regulations now mean you must store these chemicals properly
- Find out if a collection of old and unwanted agrichemicals is happening in your region.
- To find out more, read on



New law for storing outdated agrichemicals

New laws have been introduced to manage the storage and disposal of certain outdated agrichemicals that contain persistent organic pollutants or POPs. Some of these chemicals were used in New Zealand as pesticides in the past (such as aldrin, DDT and dieldrin). So, although they have been deregistered for over 15 years, there's a chance you may still have some old stocks of them in your shed. If you have any chemicals containing POPs on your farm you need to ensure that they are stored correctly until they can be collected for safe disposal.

These chemicals have been deregistered because they are harmful. Their residues also last a very long time, building up in the tissue of living things and accumulating through the food chain. Because of the risk they pose to humans, animals and our environment, many countries are undertaking programmes to collect and dispose of old stocks of these pesticides.

Why has the law changed?

As a signatory to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, New Zealand committed to a long-term international effort, along with over 150 other countries, to reducing or eliminating health and environmental risks from chemicals specified in the Convention.

New legislation implementing the Stockholm Convention, the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (Stockholm Convention) Amendment Act 2003, means if you have any chemicals containing POPs on your farm you must store them properly, in accordance with ERMA New Zealand's Notice in the New Zealand Gazette on 22 December 2004.

What chemicals does the Stockholm Convention cover?

There are 12 organochlorine (chlorine-containing) chemicals listed as POPs under the convention, they are:

- Nine pesticides: aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, mirex, hexachlorobenzene, and toxaphene.
- PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls);
- Dioxins and furans (polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins or PCDDs, and polychlorinated dibenzofurans or PCDFs).

How can I store chemicals containing POPs safely?

Chemicals containing POPs held by farmers must be stored in suitable containers and kept in places which are secure and lockable as well as ventilated to the outside. Always wear protective equipment whenever you handle agrichemicals, at least gloves, a mask and safety glasses.

All chemicals containing POPs must be stored in a position where run-off or dusts cannot reach water supplies, waterways or crops so that the risk of contamination is minimised. The storage facility should be placarded clearly with the proper HAZCHEM signage, available from safety equipment supply companies. Signage must be displayed on the outside entrance door.

The HAZCHEM code for organochlorine pesticide formulations, such as POPs, is 2XE.

If chemicals containing POPs are not stored securely they could be harmful to you, your animals, your family and the environment. This is a risk you can't afford.

Which ones could I have?

Some of the more common agrichemicals which contain POPs are:

- Atlas
- Dieltas
- Cleanso and Cleanso Ditox
- Young's Sheep Dip
- Elliots Dips
- Cooper's Louse Powder
- Nexa Sheep Dip
- Tartan Dieldrin Sheep Dip

What do I do in a spill or fire?

Any spillage of chemicals containing POPs must be contained. Spilled solid substances must be swept into sealable containers and may need to be moistened first to prevent dusting. Carefully collect the remainder then move it to a safe place to await collection.

In the case of leaking and spilled liquids, these must be collected in sealable containers as far as possible. The remaining liquid must be absorbed in sand or inert absorbent and moved to a safe place to await collection. Do NOT wash away into the environment or sewer.



What chemicals does the Stockholm Convention cover?

There are 12 organochlorine (chlorine-containing) chemicals listed as POPs under the convention, they are:

- Nine pesticides: aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, mirex, hexachlorobenzene, and toxaphene.
- PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls);
- Dioxins and furans (polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins or PCDDs, and polychlorinated dibenzofurans or PCDFs).

Which ones could I have?

Some of the more common agrichemicals which contain POPs are:

- Atlas
- Dieltas
- Cleanso and Cleanso Ditox
- Young's Sheep Dip
- Elliots Dips
- Cooper's Louse Powder
- Nexa Sheep Dip
- Tartan Dieldrin Sheep Dip

The appropriate firefighting agent for organochlorine pesticide formulations (such as POPs) is water fog (a fine mist). The substance should be contained and prevented from entering drains or water courses. Evacuation of all areas likely to be at risk should be considered.

Always wear full breathing apparatus and skin protection when dealing with a major fire or spill, whether liquid or solid. If the spill or fire is significant call emergency services first for assistance and then contain the emergency.

How do I dispose of chemicals containing POPs?

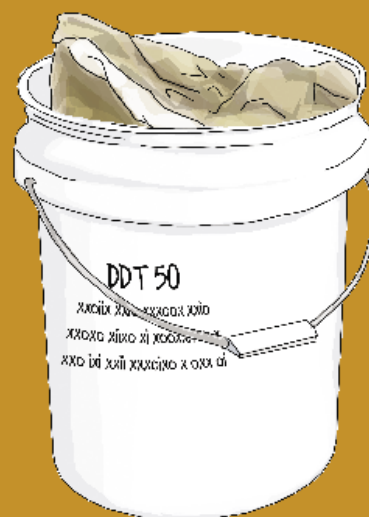
The disposal of chemicals containing POPs requires specialist hazardous waste handling arrangements. The Ministry for the Environment is currently running a national agrichemical collection in partnership with regional councils to remove old and unwanted agrichemicals and chemicals containing POPs from each region.

The collection and disposal service is aimed at removing chemicals containing POPs and other agricultural chemicals from each region in a way that is inexpensive and easy. This collection will take several years to achieve nationally. Chemicals must be stored correctly until there is a collection in your region. To find out how you can help reduce the amount of dangerous chemicals in your area please contact your regional council.

Tips for Suitable Storage

- Where possible, chemicals containing POPs should be left in the existing packaging unless they are leaking. If they are leaking you can place the containers into a 20 litre paint pail or, if you have a large amount, a 200 litre open top drum (make sure you keep the chemicals separate from other acids or oils).
- Where possible you should always try and retain the original packaging, even if damaged or disintegrating, as this shows exactly what the product is.
- Labels should provide as much information as possible, even if it's just written on the container in pen.

For further labelling and storage requirements, see the HSNO regulations or Code of Practice NZS 8409: 2004 Management of Agrichemicals.



More information

A brochure containing more information on the safe storage and collection of POPs and what to do in a spill or fire is available by contacting ERMA New Zealand on 04 916 2426 or email publications@ermanz.govt.nz. A copy can also be found online at www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources.

For more information on the safe use and storage of agrichemicals see the following websites:

ERMA New Zealand
www.ermanz.govt.nz

Ministry for the Environment
www.mfe.govt.nz

NZS8409:2004 Management of Agrichemicals
www.standards.co.nz

Infosheet on NZS8409:2004 Management of Agrichemicals
www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/ER-IS-25-1.pdf

The New Zealand Agrichemical Education Trust
www.growsafe.co.nz

For more copies of this brochure please contact ERMA New Zealand on 04 916 2426 or email publications@ermanz.govt.nz.

Published 2005

Do you have Banned Pesticides on your farm?

