



COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

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MIXING PESTICIDES

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This fact sheet covers mixing safety, precautions, and how to mix a tank of pesticide.

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Mixing Pesticides

Mixing includes measuring the amount of pesticide needed, placing it in the sprayer and filling the sprayer with water. This should be done in a manner that safeguards the person carrying out the mixing as well as protecting the environment from negligent or accidental contamination. Mixing increasing exposure to concentrated forms of the pesticide.

Mixing Safety

- **READ THE LABEL.**
- Mix only if the weather is suitable for spraying.
- Collect all the equipment needed in one place.
- Wear proper protective clothing.
- Calibrate the sprayer before mixing the pesticide.
- Mix only the amount of pesticide needed.



Precautions

- Mix pesticides outside, in the area of application, and away from animals and food.
- Never mix near surface water or storm drains.
- Never eat, drink, or smoke when mixing pesticides.
- Never combine pesticides with other chemicals unless stated on the label (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [Tank Mixing](#)).
- Mix in the correct proportions. Never mix pesticides at higher concentrations than are on the label.
- Do not allow the garden hose nozzle to dangle in the spray tank where it will contact the mixture and become submerged (contaminated). If possible, fill from a bucket.
- Fill the sprayer slowly and carefully to avoid splashing.

How to Mix a Tank of Pesticide

- Fill the sprayer with about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the amount of water needed.
- Measure the amount of pesticide needed and pour into the tank.
- Rinse the measuring tool with water 3 times and pour the rinsate into the sprayer.
- If you empty the pesticide container, immediately rinse 3

times with water and pour the rinsate into the sprayer.

- Add the remaining amount of water.
- Agitate as needed.

More Tips

- Never siphon pesticides with your mouth.
- Open bags and boxes with a knife or scissors (used only for this purpose). Do not rip them open.
- Stand upwind when mixing.
- Do not leave spray tank unattended.

References and Resources

Gempler's Tailgate Training Tip Sheet. 1996. *Mix and Load Pesticides Safely*, No. 28. Gempler's, Inc., Belleville, WI.

Use Caution when Mixing Pesticides. 1997. Home Pesticide Education and Safety Training, University of Wisconsin Extension, Madison, WI.

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