

Ag. Pesticide Containers

The Problem

Nearly 20% of all the pesticide use in the entire country happens in California as California is the top agriculture-producing state in the country. If improperly disposed, the residual pesticides left in containers can negatively impact the health of humans and the environment. Pesticides that enter our wastewater treatment may cause the chemicals in the pesticides to enter our waterways, including groundwater, as many municipal systems aren't equipped to remove pesticide residue.

The Solution

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published their [regulations for pesticide containers](#) in 2006 to impose disposal language on pesticide labeling. The regulations require empty containers to be triple rinsed and punctured to be recycled and prevent reuse. On September 28, 2008, California passed [SB 1723 \(Maldonado\): Agriculture: pesticide recycling program and certification](#), which requires every person who first sell certain pesticide containers to demonstrate participation in a certified high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pesticide container recycling program and annually submit certifying documents to the director of the [Department of Pesticide Regulation](#). The law only applied to containers that are 55 gallons or less.



California Department of
Pesticide Regulation

Learn more by visiting the [CDPR Pesticide Container Recycling Program Webpage](#) . Sign up for [CDPR's listserv](#) or [join CPSC](#) for regular updates.

Properly Dispose of Your Pesticide Containers

- [Interstate Ag Plastics](#) – Statewide
- [Ag Container Recycling Council](#) – Nationwide
- [Earth 911](#) – Nationwide

Research & Relevant Articles

- [Management of Empty Pesticide Containers—A Study of Practices in Santa Cruz, Bolivia](#) – Environmental Health Insights, 6/29/2017
- [Container Management: How to Increase Collection Rates of Empty Packaging from Plant Protection Product](#) – CropLife International, 9/2021

Links

- [Pesticide Container Recycling in California](#) – California Department of Pesticide Regulation
- [Pesticide Environmental Stewardship](#)
- [Container Rinsing - Ag Container Recycling Council](#)
- [The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance](#)