

Best Management Practices

Regardless of whether you meet the minimum thresholds for secondary containment and/or mixing and loading pads, an ideal facility should provide:

- √ Separate storage areas for pesticide and fertilizer which are secured and keep the product out of the weather.
- √ Secondary containment of the stored products.
- √ A safe mixing and loading area away from water resources.
- √ Worker protection features such as showers, first-aid, and spill clean up kits.

Other recommended Best Management Practices include:

- √ Purchase only the amount of chemical needed for each season.
- √ Return unused chemicals to avoid over-winter storage.
- √ Mix only the precise amount of chemical needed for the immediate job.
- √ Use rinsate as water for the next spray batch. Be sure rinsate water is compatible with chemical.
- √ Use mini-bulk and two-way containers to eliminate container waste.
- √ Mix chemicals and clean equipment at the application site to reduce rinsate water.
- √ Utilize direct injection spray systems and mini-bulk containers to reduce pesticide waste.
- √ Maintain good records of all chemical use.

PESTICIDES & FERTILIZERS

Does your operation require secondary containment and/or a mixing and loading pad?



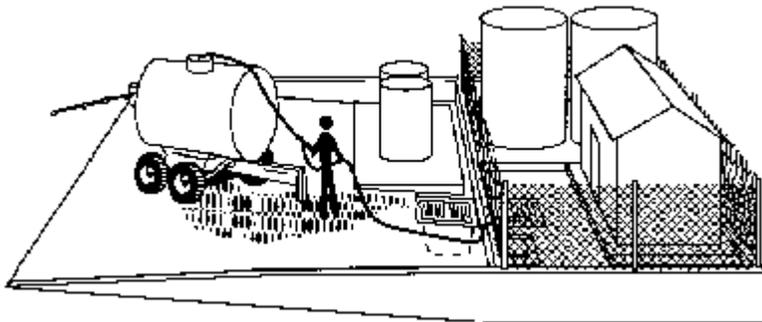
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Agricultural Chemicals and Groundwater Protection Act

During the 1990 legislative session, the Colorado Legislature passed Senate Bill 90-126, the Agricultural Chemicals and Groundwater Protection Act. In this Amendment to the Colorado Water Quality Control Act, the general assembly declared that the public policy of this state is “to protect groundwater and the environment from impairment or degradation due to the improper use of agricultural chemicals while allowing for their proper and correct use.” The emphasis is to improve the management of agricultural chemicals to prevent, minimize, and mitigate their presence in groundwater.

The Commissioner of Agriculture has promulgated rules for storage facilities and mixing and loading areas for pesticides and commercial fertilizers where they are stored and handled in quantities that exceed set minimum thresholds. The purpose of these rules is to prevent spills and leaks that may occur during the storage and mixing and loading of agricultural chemicals from contaminating groundwater. The rules establish performance standards for the construction and operation of secondary containment of bulk liquid pesticide and fertilizer storage facilities; pesticide and fertilizer mixing and loading areas; and bulk dry pesticide and fertilizer storage.



Does the Law apply to you?

Pesticides

Secondary Containment

1. Do you store pesticides in containers larger than 55 gallons for liquid pesticides or 100 pounds for dry pesticides for more than 15 consecutive days?
▶ If you answered no to question 1, secondary containment is not required, skip questions 2 and 3.
2. Do you store pesticides in containers larger than 55 gallons that are not Department of Transportation 57 or MACA 75 approved?
3. Do you store pesticides in containers larger than 660 gallons?
▶ If you answered yes to either question 2 or 3 secondary containment and a mixing and loading pad is required.

Mixing and Loading Pads

4. Do you mix and load at one site annually (any site within 300 feet of another site is considered one site for these regulations) more than:
 - a. 500 gallons of liquid formulated product (concentrate as it comes from the supplier) OR
 - b. 3000 pounds of dry formulated product, OR
 - c. 1500 pounds of active ingredient of a combination of liquid and dry product*▶ If you answered yes to any part of question 4, a mixing and loading pad is required.*

Fertilizers

1. Do you store liquid fertilizer in a container or series of interconnected containers with a capacity of greater than 5,000 gallons for period of 30 consecutive days or more?
2. Do you store bulk (containers larger than 100 pounds) dry fertilizer in quantities of 55,000 pounds or more for a period of 30 consecutive days or more?
▶ If you answered yes to either question 1 or 2 secondary containment and a mixing and loading pad are required.

Field mixing and loading of pesticides or fertilizers is exempt.