Mix Pesticides Safely

When you handle a pesticide product, you are handling the pesticide in its most concentrated and hazardous form. To avoid mishaps, be prepared before you open the container:

- Only mix pesticides if the weather is suitable for spraying (e.g., little wind, no rain as expected).
- Read the entire label. The label contains all of the information you will need to properly handle a pesticide. For more information on how to read a pesticide label, refer to Home PEST brochure #5, “Reading Pesticide Labels.”
- Collect all of the equipment you will need to mix and apply the pesticide and clean up afterward.
- Wear the proper personal protective clothing and equipment when you mix or apply pesticides.
- Check the pesticide label and see Home PEST brochure #10, “Personal Protective Equipment.”
- Calibrate your sprayer before mixing the pesticide to ensure that you apply the correct amount of pesticide uniformly over the target area.
- For more information on calibration, refer to the Home PEST brochure #5, “Hand Sprayer Calibration” and #9, “Sprayer Calibration.”

Mixing Pesticides

‘Mix’ or ‘mixing’ includes measuring the amount of pesticide needed, pouring that amount into your sprayer, and filling the sprayer with water.

Precautions

- Mix pesticides on your lawn or in your garden, away from a well or surface water.
- Do not smoke, drink, or eat while mixing pesticides.
- Do not mix a pesticide with another pesticide or chemical unless the combination is listed on the label.
- Mix a pesticide and water in the proportions specified on the label. When filling the sprayer with water, do not place the end of the garden hose into the sprayer. Instead, leave an air gap between the top of the sprayer and the hose nozzle for the garden hose or water from a bucket. This will prevent the pesticide from siphoning back into the hose and into your drinking water supply.
- After filling, shake the pesticide product away from children or pets. Never leave the sprayer unattended.

Step-by-Step Guide

1) Fill the sprayer with about half as much water as needed.
2) Measure the amount of pesticide needed per tankful and pour it into the tank. Use measuring spoons or cups designated solely for this purpose.
3) Rinse the measuring tool with water as needed.
4) If you empty the pesticide container, immediately rinse it 2 times with water and pour the rinse water into the sprayer.
5) Add the remaining amount of water required to the sprayer.
6) Agitate the mix as needed.

Mix Pesticides

- A: Immediately upright the container.
- B: Put all of the contaminated material in a double plastic bag and place it in the trash. If the spill occurs indoors, ventilate the area.
- C: A: Remove contaminated clothing and immediately wash the area of the body exposed to the pesticide with soap and water.
- D: A: It is illegal to apply pesticides at a higher rate (i.e., more product or less water) than the label recommends.
- E: However, you may use a lower rate than recommended. Keep in mind however, that when mixing pesticides,
- F: You are handling the pesticide in its most concentrated and hazardous form. To avoid mishaps, be prepared before you open the container:
- G: Only mix pesticides if the weather is suitable for spraying (e.g., little wind, no rain as expected).
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- I: Collect all of the equipment you will need to mix and apply the pesticide and clean up afterward.
- J: Wear the proper personal protective clothing and equipment when you mix or apply pesticides.
- K: Check the pesticide label and see Home PEST brochure #10, “Personal Protective Equipment.”
- L: Calibrate your sprayer before mixing the pesticide to ensure that you apply the correct amount of pesticide uniformly over the target area.
- M: For more information on calibration, refer to the Home PEST brochure #5, “Hand Sprayer Calibration” and #9, “Sprayer Calibration.”

Use caution when mixing pesticides

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