Protecting Drinking Water from Pesticides

Advice for Gardeners and Household Users

Promoting best practice in the use of pesticides to protect drinking water

Examples of pesticide products commonly used in gardens and around the house include weedkillers, insecticides, fungicides, rodent poisons and slug pellets.

It is essential to take great care when storing, handling or using any pesticide as even a trace amount going down a drain or entering a water course can end up in drinking water.

Certain levels of weeds and insects are important to the natural environment. Consider whether you need to use the pesticide. Is the organism really causing lasting damage?

DOs	DON'Ts
DO recycle empty containers in your recycling bin or at a Local Authority Civic Amenity Site. If unsure about any aspect of container disposal, enquire at purchase outlet.	**DON'T** dispose of unused pesticide or rinse water from pesticide containers down a drain or sink. Container washings can be applied to the treated area. Check with your local Civic Amenity Site if you have unused product for disposal.
DO dispose of unused product properly at a Civic Amenity Site or at a mobile collection as organised by some Local Authorities. Contact your Local Authority for further details.	**DON'T** apply pesticides if it is raining, if the area being treated is wet, or if rain is forecast.
DO store all pesticides in a dry, secure location which cannot result in accidental leaks to drains, wells or water courses - and out of children's reach.	**DON'T** use pesticides near drains, wells or water courses such as rivers, streams or lakes.
DO read and follow the instructions for use carefully to get the best results.	
DO take extra care to prevent entry to drains, particularly if applying pesticides to hard surfaces such as paths or driveways.	

For further information visit **www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie, www.teagasc.ie** or **www.epa.ie**

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