

HOW TO SAFELY TRANSPORT PESTICIDES

Pesticides should always be handled carefully and according to the label. When transporting pesticides and their containers, you must take appropriate safety precautions to minimize or prevent leaks or spills. The following transportation tips can help you be prepared, know what to do in case of spills, and have the proper spill cleanup equipment on hand. Always wash your hands after handling pesticides or pesticide containers.

Spills and Accidents



Despite all safety precautions, accidents can happen. The first line of defense is recognizing how to prevent these transportation mishaps. If a spill or accident occurs during transportation to the pesticide collection site, quick action is imperative.

The faster you can contain, absorb, and dispose of a spill, decreases the chance of harm to vegetation, domestic animals, wildlife, and water quality. Clean up spills immediately, even minor dribbles can expose unprotected persons or animals. Never leave a spill unattended; get assistance and have a pesticide spill kit available.

If a pesticide is spilled on a person's body or clothing, remove the contaminated clothing as quickly as possible and wash affected area(s) of the body thoroughly with soap and water.

In any pesticide contamination incident, follow the instructions given in the label's first aid treatment guidelines. If the label is unavailable, seek medical attention or contact the Hawai'i Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222.

If toxic fumes are present at the spill site, evacuate people and animals from the immediate area until qualified rescue personnel arrive at the scene. If you suspect the leaking material is flammable, **DO NOT** use road flares or allow anyone to smoke.



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Never hose down a contaminated area. This could cause the pesticide to spread and infiltrate into the soil, storm drains or sewers, and possibly reach groundwater supplies or the ocean.

Remain calm, keep people at a safe distance, and practice the Three C's of Spill Management:

- **CONTROL the Spill.** Don your personal protective equipment before contacting the spill or inhaling fumes. Place fallen containers and bags upright to prevent further release. If a small container leaked, use your spill kit to immediately control the spill. Your spill kit should contain an absorbent material (i.e., kitty litter); a shovel; a leakproof plastic garbage bag or bucket; a broom and dustpan, soap and water, a change of clothes, and personal protective equipment.
- **CONTAIN the Spill.** For liquid spills, dike the spill with absorbent material such as activated charcoal, absorptive clay, vermiculite, pet litter, sorbent pads or sawdust to cover the entire spill area. For dry spills, cover with a tarp. Prevent the spill from contaminating water or the environment.
- **CLEANUP the Spill.** Sweep or shovel the dry materials and/or absorbed liquids into a leakproof container.

If the spill is too large for you to clean up safely:

- Secure the area.
- Keep people at a safe distance.
- Call 911 for emergency assistance.
- Call the City and County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management at (808) 723-8960, the Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response Office at (808) 586-4249, the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802, or Chemtrec (Chemical Transportation Emergency Center) at (800)-424-9300.

For questions, comments, or concerns please contact Adam Williams - Pesticide Disposal Program Project Manager, 808-973-9408, hdoa.pdp@hawaii.gov, or visit the HDOA webpage for more information: <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/main/pesticide-disposal-program/>



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