

Pesticide Rinsate Management



Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division

What is rinsate?

Rinsate is a diluted mixture of a pesticide or pesticides with water, solvents, oils, commercial rinsing agents, or other substances, which may be produced during the washing of pesticide spray equipment, changing of spray mixes, container rinsing, cleaning out of pesticide storage tanks and other similar activities.

Why must rinsate be managed properly?

Rinsate must be managed to prevent hazards or damage to people and the environment, including crops.

What does Minnesota law require regarding management of rinsate?

All persons and businesses, including agricultural and non-agricultural chemical facilities, and commercial and private applicators in Minnesota must use, handle, store, distribute, and dispose of rinsate properly. This means managing in accordance with the pesticide product label. The label is the law. Language on labels may refer to rinsate specifically or to wastes in general and may vary by product.

Rinsate containing multiple pesticides is subject to the labeling requirements for each pesticide.

Labeling requirements include applying the rinsate only in the locations specified and in accordance with any applicable restrictions such as application rates, crop stage and annual maximum use rates.

Rinsate that cannot be used must be disposed of according to local, state and federal regulations.

How should I manage rinsate?

Examine your operation and take into account:

1. How rinsate is generated
2. Label and labeling requirements - carefully read all labels
3. How you can reduce or eliminate generated or stored rinsate:
 - Wash equipment in the field where the application is made
 - Mix only quantities of spray mix needed and use it all up at each application site
 - Immediately clean and rinse empty pesticide containers and use the rinsate in that load
4. How you can properly manage the rinsate once it is generated:
 - Use rinsate immediately or within the same season. Do not allow it to accumulate season to season. Segregate rinsate by product, target crop (or other use site) and pest.
 - Label it. MDA recommends storing pesticide rinsates labeled for different crops, such as corn and soybeans, separately and not mixing them. By separating rinsates, you will reduce the chance of producing a hazardous, unusable product.
 - Store and safeguard until ready to use.

What if I have pesticide mixtures that are not segregated by crop or pesticide-contaminated precipitation?

Pesticide mixtures that are not segregated by crop and pesticide-contaminated precipitation are not considered rinsates. These should be managed as a waste or you must complete pre-use sampling, analysis and reporting to receive prior written approval for soil application from the MDA Incident Response Program. Reduce or eliminate pesticide-contaminated precipitation by covering all outdoor dikes or load pads.

NOTE: Do not bring pesticide rinsate to waste pesticide collection sites.

If you need to dispose of rinsates that are not segregated by crop, contact MN Pollution Control Agency. These unsegregated rinsates may be considered hazardous waste and you would bear disposal cost. Hazardous waste generation, storage and disposal is regulated by the MN Pollution Control Agency.

Additional Requirements for Bulk Pesticide Storage Facilities

Under Minnesota law, there are additional requirements for legal use of rinsate generated in a pesticide loading area or secondary containment area at a **bulk pesticide storage facility**. Rinsate generated as a result of loading, washing, rinsing, cleanup, or similar practices requires the rinsate to be used:

- at or below labeled rates on labeled sites;
- at a rate of no more than 5% of the total tank mix for delivery rates of 40 gallons per acre or less, and no more than 10% for delivery rates of more than 40 gallons per acre.

Records must be kept for these rinsate uses, indicating amounts, crop to which applied, and date(s) of application.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture contacts:

Storage & Handling Questions

Greg Harding
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Application & Disposal Questions

Gary Elsner
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Pesticide Label Questions

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Applicable Legal References:

Minnesota Statute 18B.01, 18B.07
Minnesota Statute 116.06, subd. 11
Minnesota Rule 1505.3090