

H₂O^K? Think Water

Top Tips for keeping water clean

Keeping pesticides out of water requires everyone to:

- understand how pesticides reach water
- know about their local water protection priorities
- use pesticides responsibly

The check-list below and the advice overleaf is a useful starting point. If in doubt about the answers, the advice or how to use pesticides responsibly consult a BASIS registered agronomist. To find out more about local water protection priorities visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/ or contact your local catchment officer www.naturalengland.org.uk/csf.

H2OK? Top Tips Check-list:

- | | ✓ X |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1 Do you understand how pesticides get into water? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Are you aware of your local water protection priorities? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Do you have a farm map showing all water courses and pesticide handling areas? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Do you have plans showing the drainage around your pesticide wash down and handling areas? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Are all pesticides (sprays and pellets) applied by trained, competent staff who are members of NRoSO? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Are all water courses protected with a 6m grass buffer strip or a 5m no spray zone? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Are soils managed to avoid erosion or run-off? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 Do you avoid applying pesticides to dry, cracked or saturated soils and delay application if heavy rain is expected within 48 hours? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 Is application equipment cleaned in the field away from watercourses and drains or are washings contained and treated in a lined biobed or biofilter? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 Do you refer to Water Protection Advice Sheets (WPAS)? | <input type="checkbox"/> |

What is a pesticide?

The term pesticide or plant protection product covers weedkillers/herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, slug pellets/molluscicides, plant growth regulators and soil sterilants amongst others. Rodenticides are now classed as biocides but need to be treated with the same care.

Use Water Protection Advice Sheets (WPAS) for products containing:

benazone, carbetamide, chlorotoluron, clopyralid, mecoprop-p, metaldehyde (slug pellets), metazachlor, propyzamide and grassland sprays. Download WPAS from www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk

For more detailed advice see over.



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for farmers**
CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING



**The
Voluntary
Initiative**

Promoting responsible pesticide use

**CAMPAIGN
FOR THE FARMED
ENVIRONMENT**



In the FARMYARD

Organise filling and cleaning to prevent pesticides reaching water

- Choose products and packaging that are easily handled and cleaned.
- Remember pesticides include pellets, baits, seed treatments and drenches as well as sprays.
- Check application equipment is in good working order. Use the National Sprayer Testing Scheme (NSTS) and operator checklist.
- Ideally fill sprayer on a dedicated bunded concrete handling area where drainage is collected and applied to a vegetative area in line with a groundwater permit or via a lined biobed or biofilter.
- Do not fill at the field entrance if it is adjacent to a watercourse, or to a road or track which could channel run-off water to a watercourse.
- Use a bowser or separate storage tank and ensure the water supply is connected via a double check valve.
- Never take water direct from the mains, troughs, watercourses or ponds.
- Never leave application equipment unattended whilst filling.
- Clean up any spills, splashes or foaming immediately.
- Fill using the induction bowl or closed transfer system where available.
- Pressure or triple wash containers and drain into the induction bowl.
- Check for drips and leaks before leaving the handling area.
- Store empty containers safely and upright after use. Follow disposal contractor's advice on segregation of materials.

In the FIELD

Protect soil structure and apply carefully to protect water

- Establish at least a 6m grass buffer strip or 5m no-spray zone adjacent to any watercourse.
- Only sub-soil if there is a pan.
- Do not overwork the soil so that it becomes slaked or capped.
- Run tramlines across slopes where practical, avoid placing down slopes leading to a watercourse.
- Where possible avoid establishing tramlines at drilling.
- Leave 50% trash cover and aim for rapid crop establishment to minimise soil erosion.
- Do not spray if ground is cracked, waterlogged or frozen.
- Do not apply pesticides if heavy rain is expected within 48 hours of application.
- Avoid conditions where spray drift can occur, use nozzles and a spray quality which reduce drift.
- Do not overspray buffer zones and watercourses.
- Spray headlands last to avoid picking up mud and pesticides on tyres from sprayed area.
- Spray tank washings on to the crop or target area.
- Ensure all cleaning activities take place away from watercourses.
- Wash the outside of the sprayer before leaving the field.
- Clean mud from tyres before leaving the field, as mud on tyres can carry pesticides.

www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk

Catchment Sensitive Farming provides free pesticide training and grants in some catchments – for more information on see www.naturalengland.org.uk/csf