



DEPARTMENT: AGRICULTURE

Pesticides: storing agrochemicals and stock remedies

Prevent the risk of agrochemicals and stock remedies being used to poison livestock, people and even to destroy crops. Losses are costly and can be avoided by efficient security

Safety

- Keep agrochemicals locked away from children and untrained workers or those that cannot read.
- Lock away chemicals safely in a separate store so that cross-contamination of food, feed, seed and fertiliser by spillage or vapours from volatile chemicals will not occur.
- In the case of fire or floods these materials will be confined to one area.



Product separation

- Separate herbicides from other agrochemicals.
- “Very toxic/Toxic” products should be grouped together.
- Flammable products should be interspersed with non-flammable products of their own group.



Quality assurance

- Chemicals stored under dry, cool conditions will not deteriorate as rapidly as those exposed to extreme temperatures and moisture.
- A well-organised store will prevent the wrong remedy being chosen accidentally.

**Use products on the basis of
“first in first out”**

Stacking of products

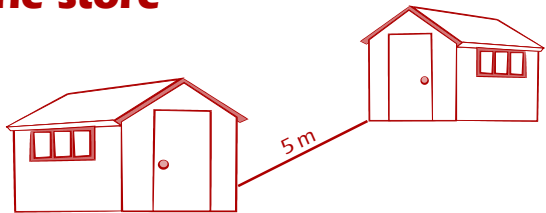
Cement floors tend to sweat. Therefore, to prevent damage to cartons or paperbags, they should:

- be placed on pallets
- not be stacked against exterior walls.

Where to place the store

The store should at least be 5 m from other buildings. It must not be near:

- a dwelling house
- buildings for livestock
- rivers, dams, boreholes and areas likely to be flooded
- buildings where feed, fodder, fuel and other inflammable materials are stored



Other unacceptable places to store agrochemicals are:

- cellars

- garages
- workshops
- other rooms which are used frequently.



Construction

Floor

- Use smooth screeded concrete.
- Floor to wall joints must be made watertight.
- Earth, timber, bitumen, PVC or linoleum and coarse unscreeded concrete are not acceptable.



Walls

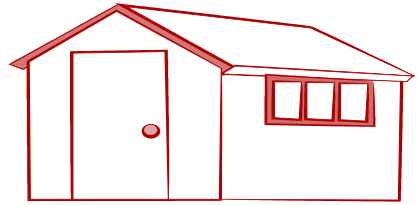
- Walls should be made of bricks or concrete blocks.
- Place airbricks or vents 200 mm from the floor and/or at roof level.
- Good ventilation is important. In areas where severe sandstorms occur, wind direction should be considered when placing vents.

Roof

- The roof must not leak.
- It should be fitted with some form of insulation to maintain temperature at a reasonable level.
- Vents in the roof will allow hot air to escape during summer.

Doors

Steel doors with an effective locking system is recommended.



Windows

- Windows should allow enough light into the store so that the product labels can be read easily.
- Windows should be at/or above head height and burglar barred.

**Never use household items
in the store!**

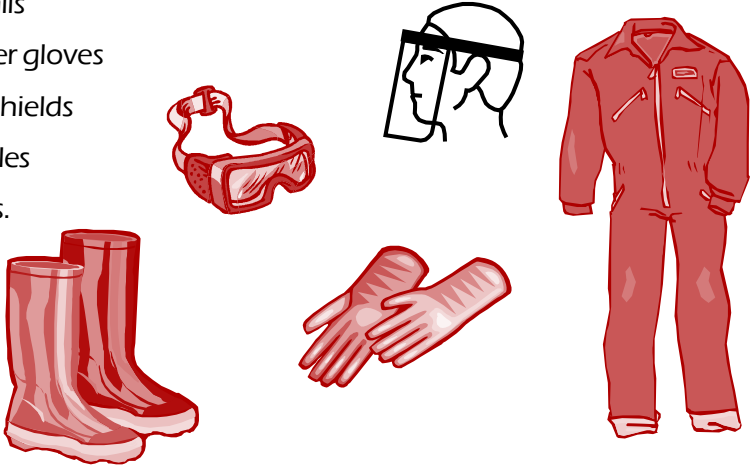
Equipment

- The store should contain:
 - a table
 - scoops
 - measuring jugs
 - buckets
 - a scale
- Clean the equipment at the end of each working day to avoid possible contamination of products. A wash trough is recommended for this purpose.
- In case of spills, have on hand a:
 - broom
 - spade
 - supply of dry fine sand.



- Provide large open-ended containers ($\frac{1}{3}$ of a 200 l drum) for disposal of contaminated material and into which leaking containers can be placed.
- Protective equipment must be available. These include:

- overalls
- rubber gloves
- face shields
- goggles
- boots.



Protective clothing should be washed in a basin and not together with household clothing



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