

7 STEPS: GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE FOR EMPTY PESTICIDE CONTAINERS



This Good Practice Guide provides simple guidance for the safe and environmentally friendly recovery of empty plant protection product containers which are sometimes referred to as pesticide product containers or PPP containers. These empty containers arise from using plant protection products such as herbicides, insecticides and fungicides on crops and grassland. Only triple rinsed PPP containers managed in accordance with this Good Practice Guide can be classified as non-hazardous waste.

SUMMARY GUIDE

STEP 1	Triple rinse empty plant protection product containers after use and wash container caps and threads
STEP 2	Inspect and fully drain the triple rinsed containers
STEP 3	Puncture empty PPP containers
STEP 4	Purchase Farm Plastic Recycling Ltd. bags from your local Co-op or agri-merchant
STEP 5	Place the triple rinsed, clean and punctured PPP containers and washed caps in the recycling bags
STEP 6	Store bags in a safe dry place while filling
STEP 7	Bring filled recycling bags to your local authorised bring centre. The location and dates of the bring centres are available on the Farm Plastics Recycling ¹ web-site: www.farmplastics.ie

1. Currently, Farm Plastics Recycling Ltd., in partnership with Irish Farm Film Producers Group (IFFPG), is the sole approved body in Ireland for operating a compliance scheme for the recovery of farm plastic waste.

INTRODUCTION

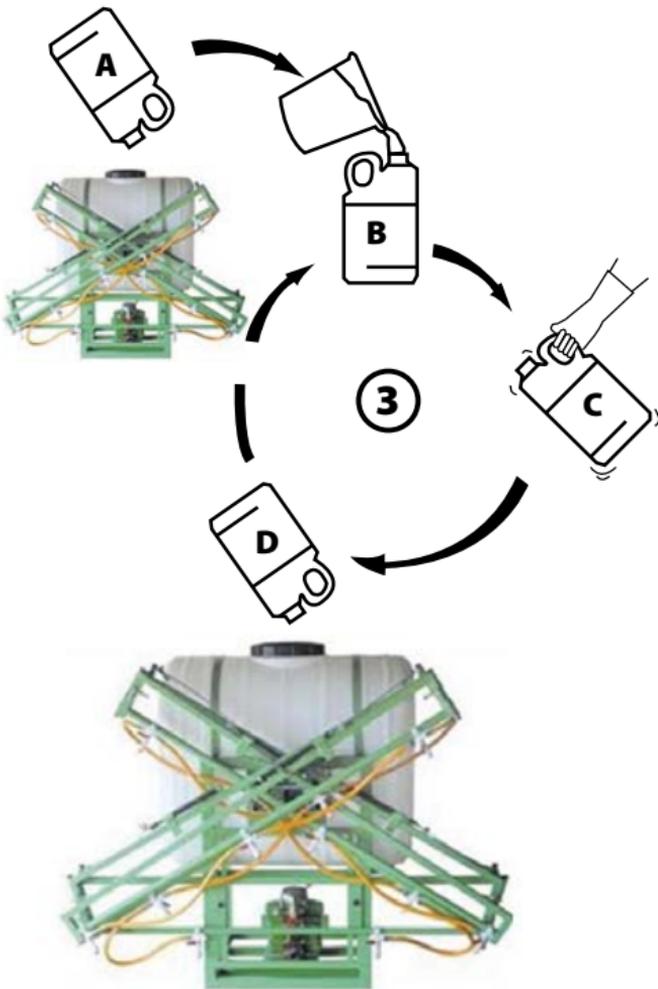


(Source: DAFM)

This Good Practice Guide provides simple guidance for the safe and environmentally friendly recovery of empty plant protection product containers (PPP). This guide works on the basis that farmers manage the containers properly on the farm, collect them and hand them over to authorised bring centres. The containers should be completely emptied, triple rinsed, drained and punctured and presented for collection at bring centres, which are operated by Farm Plastics Recycling Ltd. Farm Plastics Recycling Ltd. works in partnership with Irish Farm Film Producers Group (IFFPG), which is the national farm plastic recycling compliance scheme. It operates 200 bring centres annually across the country for the collection and recycling of farm plastics. The triple rinsed PPP containers must be placed in purchased recycling bags and brought by the farmer to an authorised bring centre where they are inspected, and if accepted are then bulked and baled and sent to recycling facilities for processing. The residual pelleted plastic is used for the manufacture of non-food contact products such as plastic wheelie bins and plastic piping/posts.

This guide is based on existing statutory requirements of Good Plant Protection Practice² (GPPP) outlined in SI No. 83 of 2003 specifically in relation to triple rinsing empty PPP containers. Additional guidance is provided to ensure that PPP waste containers are managed in such a way to ensure any risks to the environment are minimised. A Technical Background Document, prepared in conjunction with this guide, shows that when PPP containers are correctly rinsed and managed as described below they can be classified as non-hazardous waste. The classification of these containers as non-hazardous waste allows for the implementation of best practicable environmental option.

TRIPLE RINSE DIAGRAM



2. SI No. 83 of 2003 European Communities (Authorization, Placing on the Market, Use and Control of Plant Protection Products) Regulations 2003.

STEP 1 – 3 TRIPLE RINSING & PUNCTURING

PPP containers should be immediately triple rinsed after emptying. Triple rinsing involves three sequential separate rinsings and should always be carried out as follows:

- A. Drain the empty PPP container fully into the sprayer;
- B. Fill the empty container 10 – 20% full of water, replace cap securely;
- C. Shake the container vigorously; and
- D. Remove the cap, add the washings to the sprayer and let the containers drain for 30 seconds or more.

Repeat steps B to D three times to ensure that the containers are clean. In addition to the triple rinse procedure the following steps should be undertaken:

- ▼ Carefully rinse any plant protection product residue on the outside of the container and add to the content of the sprayer for use;
- ▼ The threads of the container must be washed and free of residue and the cap washed and retained for collection and recycling;
- ▼ Inspect the containers after triple rinsing to ensure that all visible residues are removed;
- ▼ Containers should be fully drained before being offered for collection and recycling; and
- ▼ Empty, rinsed and fully drained containers should be punctured to prevent re-use.

STEP 4 – 6 MANAGEMENT OF PPP CONTAINERS ON FARMS



(Source: DAFM)

Currently, Farm Plastic Recycling Ltd., in partnership with IFFPG is the sole approved body in Ireland for the purposes of operating a compliance scheme for the recovery of farm plastic waste³. Information on the service offered by Farm Film Plastics Recycling Ltd., can be found at www.farmplastics.ie. Only triple rinsed PPP containers managed under this compliance scheme will be deemed to be non-hazardous waste.

The following steps need to be undertaken by farmers/contractors to ensure compliance with the collection scheme offered by Farm Plastics Recycling Ltd.

3. Only authorised waste collectors can be used. An authorised waste collector can be determined by requesting to view a copy of their local authority issued Waste Collection Permit.



(Source: IFPPG)

1. Currently recycling bags can be purchased at the local Co-op or agri-merchant. Recycling bags are manufactured from durable low density polyethylene (LDPE). One bag (2,400mm x 1,350mm x 1,150mm) can hold approx. 80 chemical containers (1, 5, 20 litres). Instructions are provided on the recycling bags for different waste categories.
2. Place the triple rinsed, clean and punctured PPP containers and washed caps in the recycling bag.
3. Place only one waste type per bag⁴, i.e., bag should contain only triple rinsed PPP containers and caps.
4. Store bags in a safe dry place while filling.
5. Bring filled bags to your local authorised bring centre. The location and dates of bring centres for collection of triple rinsed PPP containers is available on the Farm Plastics Recycling web-site at www.farmplastics.ie

4. Farm Plastics Recycling Ltd. also collect and recycle fertiliser bags, feed bags, twine and netting.

STEP 7 AUTHORISED BRING CENTRES



(Source: Offaly Co. Council.)

The following steps will be undertaken at the authorised bring centres:

1. Only PPP containers and caps presented in Farm Plastics Recycling Ltd. bags will be accepted.
2. The bags and PPP containers will be inspected by the Farm Plastics Recycling contractor at the bring centre.
3. Inspectors from the local authorities may carry out site inspections on the day of collection to inspect the wastes to ensure that the wastes presented for collection are appropriate.
4. Any PPP containers that are contaminated will be rejected.
5. Bags containing PPP containers will be tagged with the farmers' identification details.
6. The recycling bags are taken by the contractor operating on behalf of Farm Plastics Recycling Ltd. to an authorised facility, where they are again inspected further, bulked and baled.
7. Bales of containers are delivered onwards to a facility for recycling and reprocessing.

END-USES FOR RECYCLED PPP CONTAINERS



(Source: Murray Recycled Plastic Ltd.)

Acceptable end-use products will be guided by the precautionary principal to ensure the risks to human and animal health as well as to the environment are minimised. In that regard, the recycled plastic regrind shall not be used in either the human or animal food chain processes or products. Any recycling plant receiving the triple rinsed PPP containers is required to demonstrate to Farm Plastics Recycling Ltd. that the recycled plastic is used in non-food applications thereby eliminating any risk to human or animal health and the environment.



(Source: Murray Recycled Plastic Ltd.)

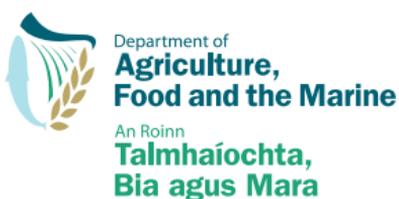


(Source: Hardi)

INFORMATION SOURCES



1. The Technical Background Document – empty pesticide containers which supports this Good Practice Guide is available at www.epa.ie and www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie and www.environ.ie
2. The locations of Farm Plastics bring centres are available at www.farmplastics.ie or call 1890 300 444
3. Farm Plastics recycling bags can be purchased at your local Co-op or agricultural merchant.



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