

**Name:**

Plant protection products use

**Definition:**

Based on “Check it out – Pesticide Handling Areas” by The Voluntary Initiative.

Keeping herbicides and other phytosanitary products out of water is vital for protects the environment and lower the risk. Over 40% of phytosanitary products that find their way into water come from handling areas.

While some phytosanitary product find their into the field, the handling practice is something every farmer and sprayer operator should address.

Every farm that uses phytosanitary products needs somewhere to filling and cleaning the application equipment. These handling locations are a potential hazard to water because large quantities of diluted and undiluted products are mixed where spills or splashes may occur

To prevent point source pollution it is important to fill and clean sprayers and handle pesticide products and containers in zones designed for the convenient handling of spillage and minimisation of contamination risk. It is important to take special care in the areas where plant protection products are managed, in order to reduce contamination risks. Appropriate procedure should be followed when cleaning tools and personal protective equipment, and when managing containers.

During all treatment operations, the farmer should think about water protection. Distributors of plant protection products should be the starting point for protection, since they contain large quantities of products concentrated in stock.

A well-managed warehouse should pose no risk to water, however stores with damaged or leaking containers pose a major threat to water pollution. The worst scenarios are the fires that occur in the containers causing the melting of the container, discharges of product causing the contamination of the water.

The design and location of the area of handling of plant protection products is very important. The protocol for a correct manipulation of the phytosanitary requires a minimum distance of separation between the area of handling and any water course. These measures include the concrete filler that drains into a protected sump. The purpose of said sink is the collection of the discharge that could occur and its subsequent cleaning.

The containers of the products must be returned to the certified collection points and the equipment complies with the Inspections required for its correct use according to the community where the agricultural activity is carried out.

In most cases, losses of phytosanitary products in the handling area are small, such as small splashes or foaming. This is why choosing the correct filling surface and using splash gauges can help control any spills. At the end of treatments, equipment should be cleaned inside and

out. This must be carried out in the handling area to avoid the dumping of large quantities of diluted product residues.

**Check in out:**

Nº	Questions	Answers	Assessment	Score
1	How do you store phytosanitary products?	On the floor of a no ventilated store	-15	
		On the shelf of a no ventilated store	-10	
		On the floor of a well-ventilated store	5	
		On the shelf of a well-ventilated store	10	
		In a purpose built bunded phytosanitary store	20	
2	What kind certificate training do you have?	Basic	5	
		Skilled	10	
		Fumigator	20	
3	How far away is your usual filling site or cleaning of application equipment of the nearest drain, sewer, ditch or water course?	Less than 2 metres	-25	
		2-5 metres	-15	
		5-10 metres	-5	
		More than 10 metres	20	
4	Do you have located the drainage of your farm?	Yes I have a comprehensive plan showing where all water drains to	15	
		I have a plan but not all the drains are shown	5	
		I do not have a plan	-10	
		I only fill in an area located to more 10 m from the nearest field drain	100	
5	What water source do you usually use for filling the application equipment?	Water tank	15	
		Hose with a check valve	10	
		Stream or watercourse	-15	
		Livestock water trough	-10	
		Hose directly connected to mains water supply	-20	
6	Where and when do you check your main sprayer?	I check it before filling the equipment outside the area of product management	10	
		I check it before filling the equipment inside the area of product management	5	
		I check it after filling the equipment outside the area of product management	-10	
		I check it after filling the equipment inside the area of product management	-5	
		I regularly checking for drips and leaks	20	
7	What ground surface do you usually fill your sprayer on?	Concrete draining to a sump	15	
		Concrete with a farmyard drain	-20	
		Concrete with no apparent drain	-10	
		Bare soil	5	
		Crop and soil (in the field)	15	
8	Where do you usually measure out most of your chemicals?	On the floor/ground, filling area	-5	
		On a dedicated table	15	
		On a tray attached to the induction bowl	10	
		I always use exact pack sizes	5	
9	If you ever end up with excess spray solution, what do you do with it?	Spray on treated crop (below maximum dose)	15	
		Spray on untreated crop	10	
		Spray on waste ground	-5	
		Empty the tank in sump	-15	
		Empty the tank for disposal on a authorised area	10	
10	Where do the washings go after cleaning out the inside of the sprayer?	In to a holding tank for disposal authorized site	10	
		On the crop/in the field	15	
		Soakaway	-15	
		Line Biobed	20	
		Stored in a sump for professional disposal	20	
<b>TOTAL</b>				

**Interpretation:**

More than 50 – Most things are alright but you may not be perfect, identify any remaining weaknesses.

0 to 50. You are probably on the right side of the law, but things are not quite right.

-50 to 0. Inadequate, some things may be OK but some areas are probably letting you down badly.

Worse than -50. This is very poor and quite possibly you may be breaking the law as well as posing a risk to water. Things need to change and quickly too.

(Best POSSIBLE SCORE= 135) (Worst POSSIBLE SCORE= -125)

**Information source:**

Data obtained through a survey to farmers

**References and more information:**

[www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk](http://www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk). Check it out – Pesticide Handling Areas

DIRECTIVE 2009/128/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.