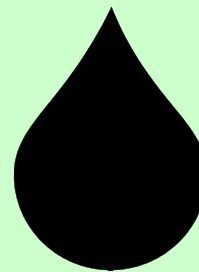


# Groundwater

## AGRI-BUSINESS STEWARDSHIP

*Brought to you by the Michigan Agri-Business Association  
through a grant from the Michigan Water Stewardship Program*



APRIL 2010

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The objective of this document is to provide you with current and helpful information regarding water protection, and the Michigan Water Stewardship Program (MWSP).

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### **Pesticide container recycling**

There are many benefits to recycling empty pesticide containers. Prior to the introduction of the Michigan Department of Agriculture's Water Stewardship Program (MWSP) recycling program, most agricultural businesses disposed of their pesticide containers by burning or burying the plastic. These methods of disposal increase the risks of human or environmental health hazards. On the other hand, recycling pesticide containers does not contaminate the air or groundwater. Recycling empty containers also significantly reduces the amount of waste entering Michigan's landfills

Recycling these containers can help reduce the risk of contamination and help protect our groundwater.

There are two easy steps to recycling empty containers:

- Triple-rinse or pressure rinse empty containers immediately after use. The rinse-water can be used in an appropriate diluted tank mix.
- Store rinsed containers in a dry area away from wells and water supplies. Take to a recycling location as soon as possible.

Recycled plastic from used pesticide containers can be used for hazardous waste drums, speed bumps, construction site mats, sound barriers and "new" pesticide containers amongst other products.

Since 1993, the Michigan Pesticide Container Recycling Program has collected and recycled nearly 725,000 pounds of empty, #2 plastic high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pesticide containers. The plastic containers are granulated at one of several "grind sites" across the state.

The MWSP is the backbone behind pesticide container recycling. The goal of the MWSP is to help agriculture businesses reduce the risk of groundwater contamination due to the use of pesticides and nitrogen fertilizers.

For more information on the recycling program contact; Abby Eaton at the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Environmental Stewardship Division, Telephone: (517) 241-3933; Fax: (517) 335-3329; Email: [eatona@michigan.gov](mailto:eatona@michigan.gov). For additional contacts and resources, visit the Michigan Agri-Business Association's Web site at [www.miagbiz.org](http://www.miagbiz.org)

### **Clean Sweep**

To further reduce the risk of pesticide contamination to our groundwater supply, the MWSP has also established 15 permanent "Clean Sweep" locations where residents can discard any unwanted or unused pesticide products. The drop-off sites will collect and dispose of unwanted products free of charge.

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