

Regardless of whether you meet the minimum thresholds for secondary containment and/or mixing/loading areas, an ideal facility should provide:

- Separate storage areas for pesticide and fertilizer which are secured and keep the product out of the elements.
- Secondary containment of the stored products.
- A safe mixing/loading area away from water resources.
- Worker protection features such as showers, first-aid, and spill kits.

Other recommended Best Management Practices include:

- Purchase only the amount of chemical needed for each season.
- Return unused chemicals to avoid over-winter storage.
- Mix only the precise amount of chemical needed for the immediate job.
- Use rinsate as water for the next spray batch. Be sure the rinsate water is compatible with the chemical being used.
- Mix chemicals and clean equipment at the application site to reduce rinsate water.
- Utilize direct injection spray systems and portable refillable containers to reduce pesticide waste.
- Maintain good records of all chemical use.

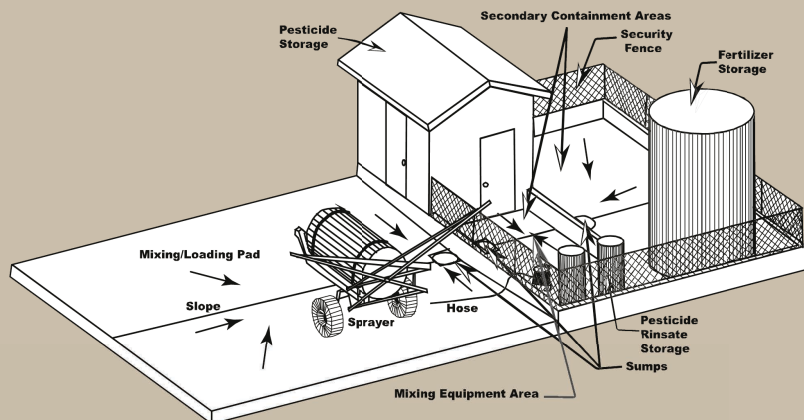


Does your operation require secondary containment and/or a mixing/loading area?

## The Agricultural Chemicals and Groundwater Protection Program

During the 1990 legislative session, the Colorado General Assembly passed Senate Bill 90-126, which created the Agricultural Chemicals and Groundwater Protection Program. This amendment to the Colorado Water Quality Control Act, states that the public policy of this state is: *to protect groundwater and the environment from impairment or degradation due to the improper use of agricultural chemicals while allowing for their proper and correct use. The emphasis is to improve the management of agricultural chemicals to prevent, minimize, and mitigate their presence in groundwater.*

One aspect of the Program that works to reduce the presence of agricultural chemicals in groundwater regards the storage and mixing/loading of pesticides and fertilizers. The Commissioner of Agriculture has promulgated rules for facilities where pesticides and/or fertilizers are stored and handled in quantities that exceed minimum thresholds. The purpose of the rules is to prevent and/or contain spills and leaks that can potentially contaminate groundwater resources. The rules also establish standards for the construction and operation of bulk liquid and dry storage facilities and mixing/loading areas. The following check list is provided for you to determine if your operation exceeds the established thresholds and requires secondary containment and/or a mixing/loading area.



Suggested design for a combination storage and mixing/loading area for pesticide and fertilizer handling.

Source: Designing Facilities for Pesticide and Fertilizer Containment. (MWPS-37)  
Midwest Plan Service, Agricultural Engineering., Iowa State University, Ames, IA 1991.

## Do the Rules Apply to Your Operation?

### PESTICIDES

#### Secondary Containment:

1. Do you store pesticides in containers larger than 55 gallons for liquid pesticides or 100 pounds for dry pesticides for more than 15 consecutive days?

**If you answered "no"** to question 1, secondary containment is not required; skip question 2.

2. Do you store pesticides in containers between 55 & 660 gallons that are not EPA-approved portable refillable containers?

**If you answered "yes"** to both questions 1 & 2, secondary containment and a mixing/loading area are required.

#### Mixing/Loading Areas:

3. Do you mix and/or load at one site (any site within 300 feet of another site is considered one site for these rules) in any one year period, at least:

- a) 500 gallons of liquid formulated product (concentrate as it comes from the supplier)
- b) 3,000 pounds of dry formulated product
- c) 1,500 pounds of active ingredients of pesticides

**If you answered "yes"** to any part of question 3, a mixing/loading area for pesticides is required.

**Field mixing/loading of pesticides is exempt from these rules.**

### FERTILIZERS

4. Do you store liquid fertilizer in a container or series of interconnected containers with a capacity greater than 5,000 gallons for 30 consecutive days or more?

**If you answered "yes,"** secondary containment and a mixing/loading area are required.

5. Do you store bulk (containers larger than 100 pounds) dry fertilizer in quantities of 55,000 pounds or more for 30 consecutive days or more?

**If you answered "yes,"** secondary containment and a mixing/loading area are required.