



Information for Farmers

The packaging around agricultural supplies is essential for the safe and convenient use of the products. However, once this packaging becomes waste it is a nuisance to farmers and can become an environmental hazard.

There is growing interest in the presence and impact of plastics in the environment, governments in the UK are reviewing their policies and approaches to waste. Farmers need to act responsibly to manage the packaging waste on their farms and the best way to do this is to follow the sequence below:



Reduce the amount of packaging coming on to farm

Reuse the packaging if appropriate



Recycle the packaging if appropriate

Dispose of the packaging in a safe and legal way



Agricultural Packaging Waste

Information for farmers

Reduce

Aim to reduce all packaging that comes onto your farm by:

- Considering the packaging and the waste that it will produce when you buy the product;
- Choosing larger pack sizes or, where appropriate, buying in bulk;
- Considering products with specialist reusable, recyclable or returnable packaging systems.

Reuse

- Some specialist packaging systems are designed for reuse (e.g. returnable pesticide containers) and these should be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions (other pesticide containers should not be reused);
- Appropriate reuse for other containment purposes (e.g. rubble collection) should be considered.

Recycle

Where reuse is not feasible, some waste packaging may be suitable for recycling. Look in the table opposite to find out whether this is possible.

If you are planning to recycle your waste:

- Empty and clean the packaging as thoroughly as possible and store under cover, waste can be stored for a maximum of 12 months;
- Keep any recyclable material separate from any contaminated material;
- Contact a re-processor and agree a transfer method. A list of approved re-processors can be obtained from the waste directory (<http://www.wastedirectory.org.uk/>).

Dispose

If recycling or reuse is not an option, you should dispose of waste safely. The recommended disposal routes are listed in the table opposite. **Waste can not be disposed of on farm unless appropriate permits are held.**

For disposal, make sure you do the following:

- Empty and clean packaging thoroughly – the cleaner the packaging the cheaper it is to dispose of and the safer it is to the environment;
- Store waste packaging safely if you do not dispose of it immediately;
- Pesticide containers should be disposed using a professional waste disposal contractor;
- Use a waste or recycling service. A list of these contractors can be found at the Waste Directory or Zero Waste Scotland;
- Check whether waste companies are licensed to transport your waste and assure yourself that the planned disposal route is safe and legal.



Waste Regulation rules

- No Burning of packaging waste on farm.
- Do not store waste for more than 12 months.
- Keep good records, e.g. waste transfer notices signed by both parties (kept for two years).
- Register for an agricultural exemption to store waste before disposal.
- Use an Authorised waste carrier and recycling business.

Packaging Material	Reuse	Recycle	Burning on farm	Burial on Farm	Waste Disposal Contractor
Pesticide Containers	Some manufacturers provide reuse/return schemes.	Yes	No	No	Yes
Fertiliser Bags					
IBC outers	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
IBC inners	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Small bags	Yes	Yes			
Feed and Seed Bags	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Animal Health product packaging	Some manufacturers are operating, return and reuse schemes.	Yes	No	No	Yes
Shrink-wrap	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Uncontaminated cardboard	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Pallets	Yes		No	No	Yes

Further Information

Voluntary Initiative, pesticide disposal guide.

<https://voluntaryinitiative.org.uk/legislation/disposal/>

Scottish Environmental Protection Agency Agricultural Waste guidance.

<https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/waste/agricultural-waste/>

Zero Waste Scotland, waste collectors in Scotland.

<https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/resource-management/farm-plastic-recycling>

Waste Directory, find a waste management company across the UK.

<http://www.wastedirectory.org.uk/>

Defra guidance, farm waste.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/non-hazardous-waste-treatment-and-disposal>

Defra guidance waste classification.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/waste-classification-technical-guidance>

This leaflet can be obtained from AIC at the following website:

<https://www.agindustries.org.uk/>

NOTE: All information and guidance collated Oct 2018.

AIC Ltd
Confederation House
East of England
Showground
Peterborough
PE2 6XE

Tel: 01733 385230
Fax: 01733 385270
Email: enquiries@agindustries.org.uk

