



Inorganic Fertiliser - Know the Rules

Don't apply inorganic fertilisers;

- Within 2m of any ditch, burn, river, loch, wetland or coastal water (on sloping ground a wider buffer zone may be required).
- On frozen, waterlogged or snow covered ground.
- Within 5m of any spring that supplies water for human consumption or uncapped well or borehole.
- To rough grazings or other semi-natural areas.
- In excess of crop nutrient requirements (after taking account of additions in slurry and manure).

Don't store inorganic fertilisers:

- Within 10m of any ditch, burn, river, loch, wetland or coastal water.
- On waterlogged land.
- Within 50m of any spring that supplies water for human consumption or uncapped well or borehole.
- On shallow soils (less than 40cm depth and overlies gravel).

Maintain spreading equipment in a good state of repair.

In NVZs the additional rules apply:

Prepare a fertiliser and manure management plan.

Keep an inventory of all nitrogen fertiliser retained on and brought onto your farm and keep a record of nitrogen applications (full requirements are detailed in the NVZ Action Programme).

Don't apply inorganic nitrogen fertilisers in excess of the calculated Nmax for each crop type and during the relevant closed periods. Dates vary depending on farm location – see NVZ Action Programme Rules.



Remember the 2m buffer next to a watercourse when spreading inorganic fertiliser.



Don't spread fertiliser on rough grazings or semi-natural areas.

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While fertilisers help to optimise crop yields, they can cause significant problems if they find their way into any ditch, burn, river, loch, wetland or coastal water around the farm.

Good practice to protect water quality

- Regularly test your soils and undertake a nutrient management plan using PLANET Scotland or equivalent.
- Check weather before spreading; rainfall could wash a significant percentage of nutrients off your land.
- Make sure all spreading equipment is calibrated.

How can you benefit from these rules?

Better management of fertiliser during storage and application can:

- Increase business profitability by matching nutrient applications to crop requirements on the farm. This could also reduce your spend on fertiliser, saving your farm business money.
- Keep on the right side of the regulations and help to protect your farm payment.
- Contribute to protecting and enhancing local water quality for fish, wildlife and amenity use.
- Help to reduce your farms impact on climate change.

Need more information?

For additional information about reducing pollution risks and benefitting the farm business, see www.farmingandwaterscotland.org Alternatively speak to your local agricultural consultant.



This fact sheet is intended to act as a reminder of the rules. To see the rules in more detail, see www.farmingandwaterscotland.org