



## Purchase and Storage of Pesticides Approved for Professional Use – Know the Rules

Pesticide users must hold a certificate of competence or work under the supervision of someone who does.

From November 2015 anyone who purchases pesticides must ensure the end user holds an appropriate certificate.

If there is a risk to the water environment, avoid using a product classed as dangerous to the water environment or containing priority hazardous substances where an alternative product exists.

Carry out regular stock checks and ensure expired products or those which are no longer approved for use are correctly disposed of.

### Pesticide stores must be:

- kept locked when not in use
- dry, with no internal drainage or water supply
- insulated and/or heated to provide frost protection
- ventilated
- identified with the general danger warning sign
- constructed in such a way as to prevent unwanted releases.

### Pesticide and any packaging or empty containers must be securely stored and this must not be:

- on an impermeable surface draining to a surface water drainage system

or:

- within 10 metres of a burn, ditch, loch, wetland or coastal water\*
- within 50 metres of any spring that supplies water for human consumption\*
- within 50 metres of an uncapped well or borehole\*

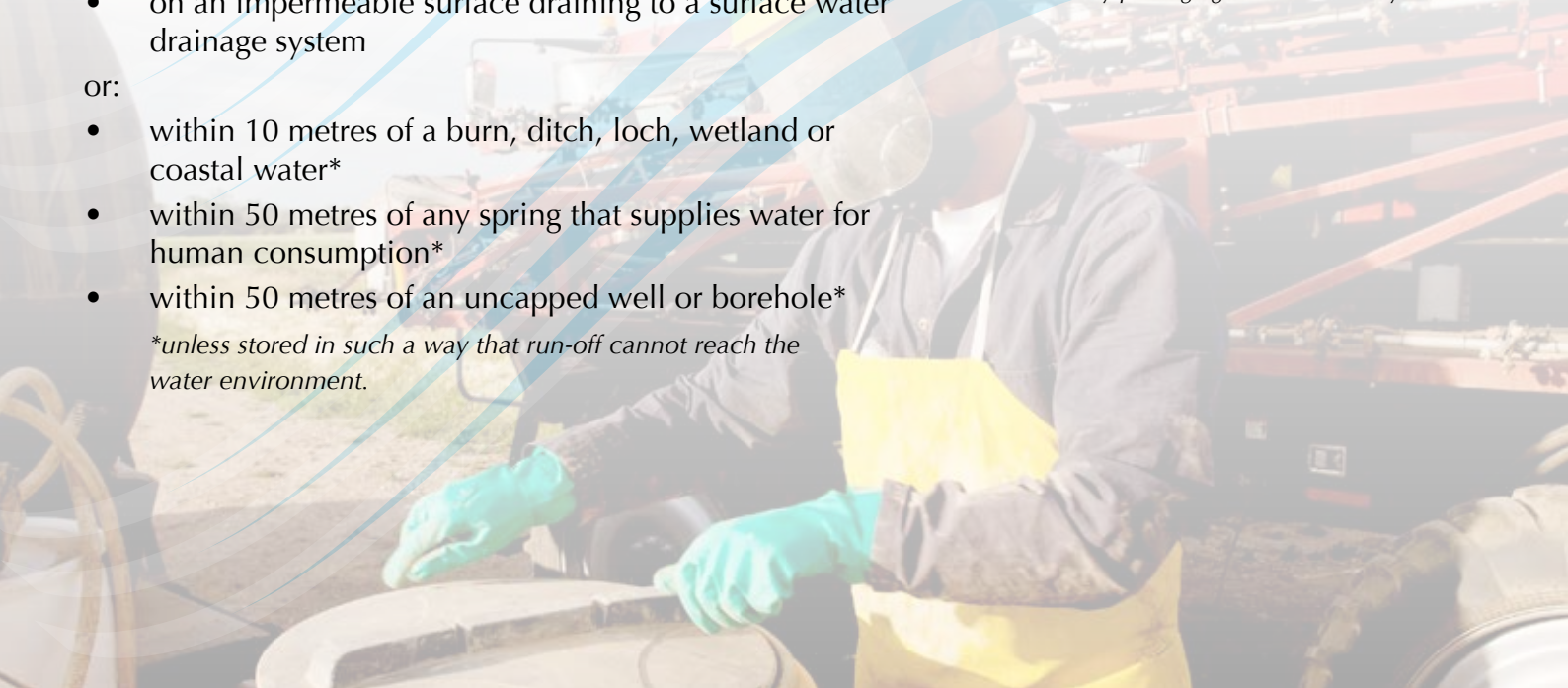
*\*unless stored in such a way that run-off cannot reach the water environment.*



*A well maintained pesticide store.*



*Pesticides and any packaging must be securely stored.*



# Purchase and Storage of Pesticides

Pesticides play a crucial role in agriculture, but can have major impacts on drinking water quality and the aquatic environment if they find their way into watercourses. No one wants to cause pollution, but small, unintentional losses during mixing and handling can have consequences for local waters including private and public drinking water supplies.

## Good practice to protect water quality

- Make sure sprayer operators have up to date training.
- Identify and review crop protection requirements.
- Follow VI (Voluntary Initiative) guidelines.
- Ensure your store is large enough to safely hold your peak pesticide requirement, part used and empty containers.

## How can you benefit from these rules?

Better use of pesticides can:

- Help to promote a professional image of farming amongst consumers and maintain pesticide product availability.
- Maintain drinking water quality from wells and boreholes on the farm. Pesticide contamination of drinking supplies could severely affect human health.
- Reduce the risk of a serious pollution incident.
- Keep you on the right side of the regulations and help to protect your farm payments.
- Protect water quality for fish, wildlife and amenity use; tiny losses of pesticide can impact miles of watercourses downstream of the farm.

## Need more information?

For additional information about reducing pollution risks and benefitting the farm business, see [www.farmingandwaterscotland.org](http://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](http://www.farmingandwaterscotland.org)