



## Using Pesticides – Know the Rules

Keep your sprayer in good condition – regularly check for and fix any leaks or drips and ensure the sprayer is accurately calibrated.

All application equipment in use (except handheld and knapsack sprayers) needs to be independently tested. More details are available at [www.farmingandwaterscotland.org](http://www.farmingandwaterscotland.org)

When filling with water, ensure you use a means to prevent pesticide siphoning back into the water source.

Pesticides must be used in accordance with label conditions.

Pesticide users have a responsibility to manage pesticides and any washings safely and with adequate care to protect human health and the environment.

Confine pesticide application to the target area.

Avoid pesticide applications during conditions where the spray would be moved out of the target area e.g. by wind or rainfall and using equipment and techniques that minimise the potential for drift.

Always maintain sufficient buffer zones around waterbodies (see product label) and don't spray pesticides within 50m of a spring that supplies water for human consumption or an uncapped well or borehole.

If the product label allows and you wish to reduce the aquatic buffer zone around waterbodies, you must first carry out a LERAP assessment and record the result in your pesticide records.

If applying pesticides in or near water (closer than 1m from the top of the bank of any river, burn, ditch, loch, wetland or coastal water), apply for authorisation from SEPA beforehand.

If spraying on a slope leading to a surface water or wetland ensure there is an adequate buffer zone between the surface water and sprayed area.

If applying pesticide to hard surfaces such as yards and roads or other infrastructure where there is a risk of polluting surface or ground water, take measures to minimise the risk to the water environment.

Do not apply pesticides on frozen or waterlogged land or during rainfall. Exceptions exist for the control of fungal disease.

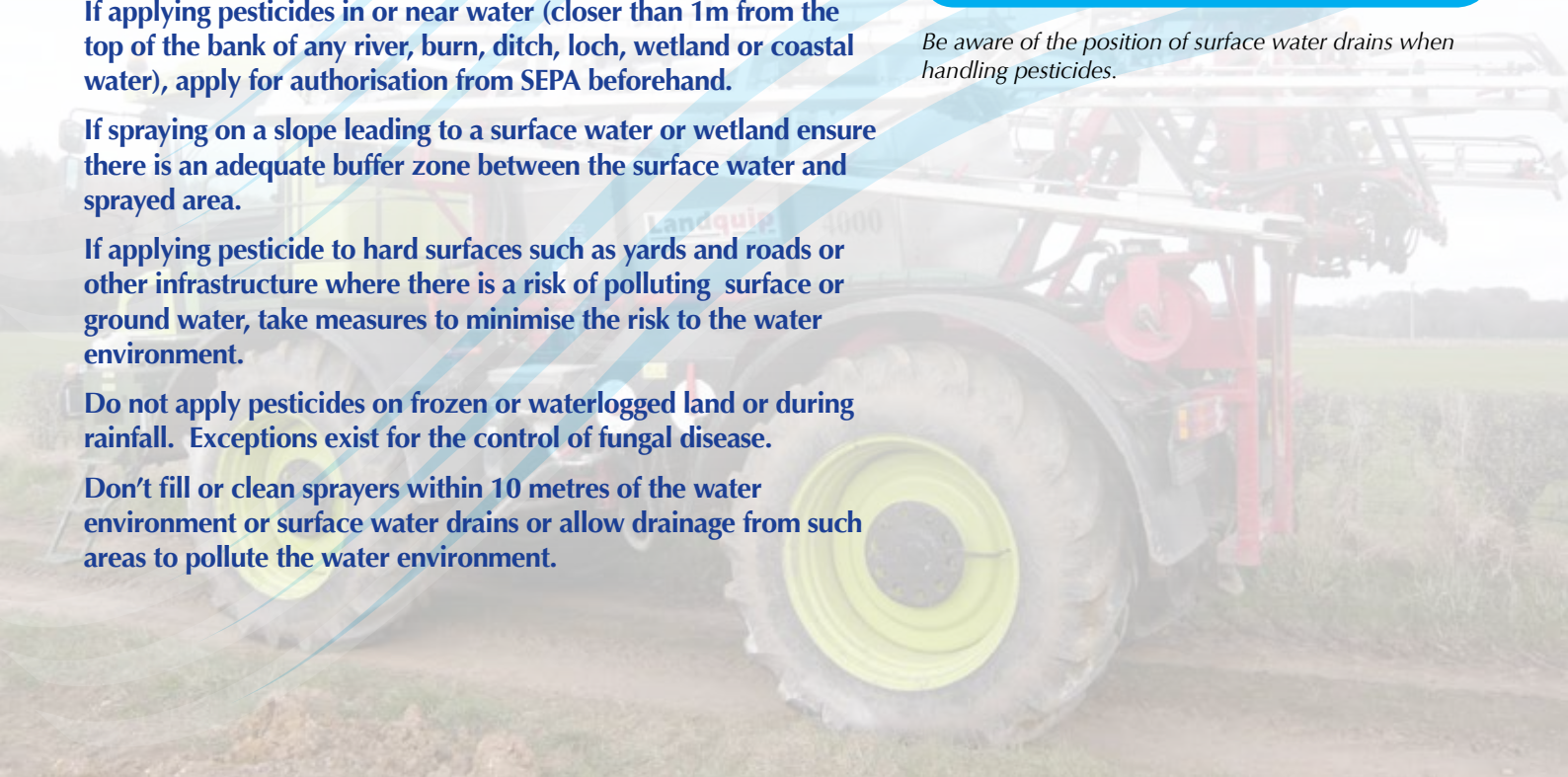
Don't fill or clean sprayers within 10 metres of the water environment or surface water drains or allow drainage from such areas to pollute the water environment.



*Considered application can protect nearby watercourses.*



*Be aware of the position of surface water drains when handling pesticides.*



# Using 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

- Review your pesticide mixing and handling area; drips or spills could get into the water environment through surface run-off, ditches, drains etc or via other vehicles trafficking the area. Consider what happens to runoff from this area when it rains.
- Consider alternative products that are less harmful to the environment or drinking water quality.
- Consider use of a biobed at the steading.
- Avoid spraying when heavy rain is forecast to minimise losses via drainflow or surface run-off.
- Establish vegetated buffer zones around watercourses.
- Ensure the amount of product used and frequency of use is as low as reasonably practical.
- Investigate funding opportunities in your area; for example funding may be available for biobeds, grass margins and beetlebanks.
- Follow VI (Voluntary Initiative) guidelines.

## How can you benefit from these rules?

Better use of pesticides can:

- Reduce your pesticides bill.
- 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.
- Contribute to protecting and enhancing local water quality for fish, wildlife and amenity use.

## 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)