



Safe Work Procedure: Triple Rinse Chemical Containers

Revision No:

1

Date effective:

July 2012

Revision date:

July 2015

Purpose

This procedure details the process for the cleaning of empty chemical containers in accordance with the Pesticides Act and WorkCover Code of practice for the safe use and storage of chemicals (including pesticides and herbicides) in agriculture section 8.4 and 8.4.1

Scope

This document applies to ground/maintenance workers.

Training

Workers undertaking the process must have completed the TAFE chemical handling course.

Procedure

Triple rinsing (a three stage rinsing process)

Prior to the process:

1. Wear appropriate PPE in accordance with the MSDS. At minimum, rubber / latex gloves must be worn.
2. Undertake the task in an appropriate space – consider ventilation and the possibility of spills.
3. Have a first aid kit nearby. An eye wash station / bath should also be accessible.

During the process:

4. Empty the contents of the container into the spray tank and allow the container to drain for an extra 30 seconds after the flow reduces to drops.
5. Fill the container with clean water to between 20% and 25% of its capacity and replace the cap securely.
6. Shake, rotate, roll or invert the container vigorously for at least 30 seconds, so that the rinse water reaches all inside surfaces. Be mindful of manual handling techniques.
7. Pour the rinsate (the rinsing water from the previous step) into the spray tank. Let it drain for an extra 30 seconds after the flow reduces to drops.
8. Repeat steps 4 to 7 until the container has been rinsed **three** times.
9. Immediately after rinsing the container the third time, look inside from above and make sure that the entire product has been rinsed out.



10. Thoroughly clean the container thread and outside surfaces of the container into the spray tank. Rinse the cap separately in a bucket of water, and pour the rinsate into the spray tank.
11. Inspect the outside of the container, particularly the screw neck and threads, to ensure they are free of residues that flake, smear, or come off on a glove when touched.
12. Allow all containers to drain completely and air-dry them (this may take a number of days) to ensure they do not retain any rinse water.

After the process:

13. Store cleaned containers in a sheltered place with caps removed, where they will remain clean and dry until they can be taken to a **drum** muster Collection Site.