SOP

Old or Unwanted Chemicals

Including certified handler products, through Agrecovery

Key point: do not leave old chemicals at the back of the shed. Identify what you have, keep it secure, and book anything you cannot use for collection through the Agrecovery Chemicals programme.

Can you still use it?

Is it clearly labelled, still approved, in good condition and needed?

YES

Use it for its label purpose
The best way to get rid of a product. Check with the supplier if unsure.

NO OR UNSURE

Book it with Agrecovery
Do not use, mix or tip it out. Keep it secure until it is collected.

What have you found?

EXPIRED OR UNWANTED

Known product you no longer need or can use
List it for Agrecovery. Keep the label on and keep it in the original container.

CERTIFIED HANDLER

Class 6.1A or 6.1B
Under a certified handler's personal control, or secured, until it goes. Record the disposal if it is tracked.

UNKNOWN

No label, or contents you cannot confirm
List it as unknown. Treat it as highly toxic. Do not open, smell or combine it. Ask the supplier if you can identify the brand.

BANNED

Legacy pesticides: do not use
Banned from use, and can persist for decades. Store securely in suitable containers until collected.

- DDT
- Dieldrin
- Aldrin
- Chlordane
- Endrin
- Heptachlor
- Mirex
- Hexachlorobenzene
- Toxaphene

Never

- Pour it into drains, waterways or onto the ground
- Put it in an offal pit or farm landfill
- Burn it or bury it
- Combine old products or decant into unlabelled containers

Next page: holding it safely, booking steps, and what to do if something goes wrong

Holding it until collection

- Secure, separate area, away from people, animals, food and seed
- Original container, tightly closed, with the label intact
- Off the ground on rigid shelves or pallets
- Check regularly for leaks and damaged labels

Booking with Agrecovery

1. **Take an inventory**
   Use the Agrecovery form: chemical name, manufacturer, pack size, remaining contents, condition.
2. **Register and submit**
   Join if you are not a member. Send it online, by post, by email or by phone.
3. **Check the cost**
   Most is free or subsidised. Agrecovery confirms any cost, then you choose what stays booked.
4. **Collection**
   On-farm or at a collection point, as Agrecovery confirms. Taking it yourself? Follow the transport SOP.

For rural properties. Collection rounds vary by region and can have quotas and closing dates. Household chemicals: ask your council. **0800 247 326**

Keep your records

Tracked product: record how much, how, when and where, and keep it for 3 years. Agrecovery can provide an auditable report for quality assurance programmes.

Stop it building up

Buy only what you need, use the oldest product first, and keep labels readable (good practice). Check the shed at least once a year.

If something goes wrong

111	0800 764 766	0800 030 040
Fire, injury or uncontained spill	National Poisons Centre, 24 hours	WorkSafe, if a notifiable event

1. Stop, move people away and keep others out of the area.
2. Follow the first aid steps on the label or SDS. Unknown product: call the Poisons Centre or 111.
3. Leaking container: with PPE on, double-bag it in strong plastic, secure and label it, then call Agrecovery.
4. Contain spills and stop them reaching drains or waterways.
5. Tell your employer. Notify WorkSafe if it is a notifiable event.

Summary only. Check the label, SDS and Agrecovery's current criteria: Agrecovery chemical programme information; Ministry for the Environment report on intractable agrichemicals; Northland Regional Council farm guidance; WorkSafe tracking guidance; National Poisons Centre.