

Minimizing Off-Target Pesticide Contamination

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There are several paths that lead to contamination. Management of off-target pesticide contamination should include the following components:

Container Management

- Triple rinsing or pressure rinsing
- Proper storage of empty containers
- Proper disposal of clean containers

Loading Management

- Never leave equipment unattended while filling
- Avoid overfilling and overflows
- Don't fill near open wells or surface water unless these are protected
- Use a fixed air gap filling system or a backsiphon protection device
- Use loading and mixing systems to minimize lifting and climbing
- Measure pesticides and/or water volume carefully

Spill Management

- Work on impermeable filling pads (temporary or permanent)
- Clean-up spills immediately
- When possible, use spill clean-up material as pesticide

Application Management

- Calibrate equipment frequently to ensure accurate applications
- Select nozzles to provide desired spray distribution
- Use the largest size spray droplets (nozzle and pressure) that will provide the desired spray coverage
- Use directed or banded applications when possible
- Use the slowest possible travel speed to provide the desired application rate within time constraints
- Use the lowest possible nozzle to target distance
- Avoid making applications during high wind conditions
- Avoid making applications during high temperature and low humidity conditions
- Avoid making applications when temperature inversions may not permit spray cloud dissipation
- Use air assistance to keep materials on target without creating additional spray drift
- Install wind shields or shrouds to reduce drift problems
- Use spray adjuvants to increase droplet size and minimize evaporation
- Leave no-spray buffer zones around sensitive areas

Rinsewater Management

- Rinse equipment in the field whenever possible
- Apply equipment rinsewater as dilute pesticide when permitted
- Use rinsewater treatment systems when necessary