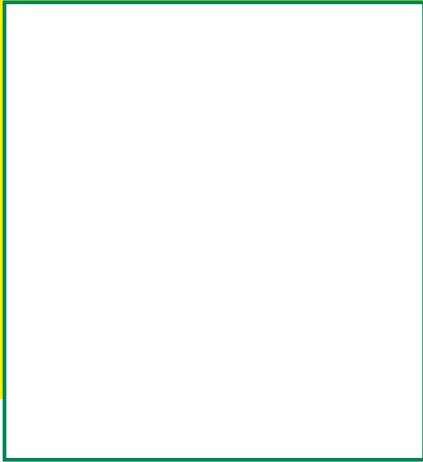


Where to take your unwanted garden chemicals



The garden chemicals guide

How to store and dispose of garden chemicals



What do we mean by “Garden Chemicals”?

Garden chemicals include a wide range of products that we use in our gardens.

They are often designed to protect plants from pests or to maintain the appearance of lawns. Most garden chemicals are types of “pesticide” including:

- animal deterrents
- fungicidal sprays
- hormone rooting powders
- moss and weedkillers
- slug and snail pellets
- lawn feed

Many garden chemicals contain ingredients that can be harmful to you; family, pets, garden wildlife and the environment. Please read on to find out how to use, store and dispose of these products safely.

Buying garden chemicals

Before you buy a garden chemical, consider first if there is an alternative. For instance, if you only have a few weeds, could you dig them out? Could you pick up any slugs and snails when they come out at night? To find out more about chemical-free gardening visit the RSPB website at: www.rspb.org.uk - type “chemical free” into the search box for top tips on chemical free gardening.

If you need to use a garden chemical:

- Check first, if you have any products in your shed or garage that could be used up before you buy a new one. If you do, and they are over a year old, it is a good idea first to check they are still safe and legal to use - see the section below
- Buy just what you need for one gardening season to avoid hoarding leftover products
- Buy ready-to-use products (pre-diluted) to avoid using more than you need.

Can my garden chemical be legally used?

Manufacturers may withdraw garden chemicals for a variety of reasons, including European Union regulations. If a manufacturer withdraws a product it will be given an expiry date, after which it can no longer be legally used. There will usually be other products available that you can use to combat the problem.



If you have any garden chemicals that are over a year old, you can check whether they are still legal to use by visiting: <https://secure.pesticides.gov.uk/garden>

Using garden chemicals safely

- Read the label before you buy the product, to check it will do exactly what you need it to, and again before you use it.
- Always use garden chemicals as instructed on the product label.
- After you have finished using the product, make sure you wash your hands thoroughly.

Storing garden chemicals

- After use, make sure that the lid or packet is tightly closed and sealed.
- Store chemicals out of reach of pets or children, in a building that won't get too hot or too cold.
- Be very careful when using and storing slug pellets, as they can poison your pets if eaten accidentally.

Disposing of garden chemicals

It is illegal to pour leftover garden chemicals down sinks, toilets or drains as even a small amount may contaminate water supplies.

- Only empty garden chemical containers should be disposed of in the rubbish bin.
- Any leftover garden chemicals that cannot be used should be taken to your nearest council disposal site to be stored and disposed of safely or your council may collect from your home.
- Visit www.chem-away.org.uk to find details of your nearest chemical drop-off site or collection service. Alternatively, contact your local council for chemical collection or disposal services - see reverse of this leaflet for details.