



OSR Herbicides?  
Think Water

# Herbicide filling & handling Best Practice

Oilseed rape plays a valuable part in many farm rotations as a break and 'cleaning' crop, especially where black-grass is a problem. However, keeping herbicides out of drinking water sources is key to preventing restrictions on use, or even loss of the products.

## Why does filling and handling matter?

A small splash, sprayer foam, even the washings from a single foil cap, can enter water courses and be detected miles from the initial event. Therefore, observing best practice in filling and handling oilseed rape herbicides is vital to protecting their continued use.

### THE KEY HERBICIDES

carbetamide  
clopyralid  
metazachlor  
propryzamide  
quinmerac




## Check it Out

Use the online VI's Check it Out Tool to review basic best practice for storage, training and certification, sprayer testing and maintenance, filling and handling, clean up and disposal.  
<http://checkitout.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk/tool/>

## Sprayers – filling and cleaning

Pesticides found in water can originate from areas where sprayers are filled and washed.

Any area chosen for **filling and cleaning** should:

-  Be at least 10m from any surface water, ditch or drain.
-  Be bunded to contain any spills, splashes or washing water and prevent entry to drains.
-  Have access to portable bunds or spill trays, with all washings returned to the spray tank for spraying out.

Filling in the field can be an option. However, take care to regularly change location to avoid compaction. Also avoid siting on roads, farm tracks or gateways, or near storm drains or watercourses.

Good **sprayer washdown** is essential to avoid damage to crops sprayed in the future, particularly when using herbicides. Provision to handle washings is important to protect against pesticides reaching watercourses.



ISSUE	BEST PRACTICE	SUBSOIL
<b>Surplus dilute spray solution</b>	Before filling the tank ensure areas and spray volumes are accurately calculated and mix enough to complete the task.	Apply excess to the treated field, provided maximum dose is not exceeded.
<b>Interior spray washings</b>	Tank-rinse nozzles are an effective way to clean the interior of the tank using minimal water volumes.	Washings should be treated as dilute spray solution. Options for disposal as above.
<b>Exterior spray washings</b>	Clean the sprayer with a hose and brush after each use and park/store under cover.	Cleaning can be carried out on a concrete area that drains to a sump or lined biobed, or could take place in the field.
<b>Used containers, foil seals, lids and packaging</b>	Pressure wash containers until visibly clean or triple rinse. Rinse foil seals.	Follow waste recycling contractor's advice on separation of materials. Containers should be left upright, with caps off, in a secure compound or recycling bin ready for collection.
<b>Personal protective equipment (PPE)</b>	Personal protective equipment (PPE) should be treated as contaminated waste.	Use professional disposal. When washing gloves or face guards, remember the washings will also contain pesticides, so should be treated as dilute spray solution (above).

## Use this check list to review your actions

Objective	Detailed actions or issues	YOUR ASSESSMENT				
		I'm doing this	Maybe I could do this	Not doing this	I will investigate	Not applicable
<b>Reduce farmyard losses</b>	Check it Out Tool used	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Filling area min 10m away from water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Field or yard drains not at risk from pesticide spills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Filling area bunded	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Washdown procedures protect field and yard drains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sprayer parked under cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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[www.osrherbicides.org.uk](http://www.osrherbicides.org.uk)



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Promoting responsible pesticide use