

# CARE IN PESTICIDE USE NEAR WATERWAYS



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)



**The  
Voluntary  
Initiative**

Promoting responsible pesticide use



**ULSTER  
FARMERS'  
UNION**



[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

Northern Ireland  
**Environment  
Agency**



**The Water  
Catchment**  
PARTNERSHIP

## NIEA is tasked with the protection and improvement of water quality in Northern Ireland.

Plant protection products (Pesticides) can have a detrimental effect on watercourses even in very small concentrations. NIEA have produced this aide memoire to help guide members of the farming community on how to protect watercourses whilst applying pesticides. For further information and guidance please see Section 6 of the DAERA “Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Prevention of Pollution of Water, Air and Soil, 2008” and the “Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products.”

1. Follow the Code of Good Agricultural Practice section 6 and the Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products, both available from the DAERA website.
2. Consider joining the Voluntary Initiative and following their guidance ‘H2OK Best Practice Advice’ available on their website, under Water Advice, which clearly explains in depth the points on this leaflet: [www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk](http://www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk).
3. Leave an untreated buffer zone beside all waterways, sheughs and ditches in accordance with the instructions on the pesticide label.
4. If the product label calls for a buffer zone, either apply it in full or do a LERAP (Local Environment Risk Assessment for Pesticides).
5. Do not spray pesticides at higher than the recommended dose or more often than recommended.
6. Do not spray pesticides or herbicides during wet weather or when the forecast is for heavy rain.
7. Do not fill sprayers or mix chemicals close to waterways or drains which discharge to waterways.
8. Careless or incorrect disposal of even very small amounts of pesticides is a potential source of pollution. Carefully calibrate all equipment and calculate the quantity of pesticide needed to avoid having any spray left over.
9. Fill your sprayer with less pesticide than is needed to allow you to dispose of the washings on an under-dosed area when the job is complete.
10. Spray the contaminated water back over the target area. This does not require an authorisation under the Groundwater Regulations.
11. Under the Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009, if waste pesticide is to be disposed of by spreading over land other than the target area, prior authorisation is required from NIEA. If no such authorisation is granted then residual pesticides must be kept within containment until disposed of legally by a registered waste carrier.

For further information, visit:

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/pesticide-regulations-guidance](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/pesticide-regulations-guidance)