

Safe Disposal of Spent Sheep Dip

Advisory Sheet



The most recent Water Quality in Ireland report from the EPA (published December 2019) indicates negative trends for river water quality in particular. This best practice info-sheet is a practical guide to help farmers to protect the environment when dealing with spent sheep dip.

Teagasc Advice on the Safe Disposal of spent Sheep Dip

Spent Sheep Dip is a serious pollutant. The chemicals involved are highly toxic insecticides. It must never be allowed to enter a watercourse or the groundwater. It must never be disposed of to a soak pit or dumped on "waste ground".



The proper procedure is to land spread by slurry tanker at a dilution rate of one part spent sheep dip to three parts water or slurry at a rate not exceeding 20m³ per hectare (1760 gallons per acre) of diluted dip.

Spent Sheep Dip must be land spread as soon as practicable after use. Farm animals should be excluded from the disposal area for at least 28 days.

Empty dip containers should be triple rinsed when the dip is being prepared, and the rinsing liquid added to form part of the diluted dip. Empty rinsed containers should then be recycled through a permitted waste collector.

Sheep dipping tanks should not have a stopper or bung for emptying purposes.

In addition, the following precautions should be followed:

- Never dispose of spent sheep dip on frozen or waterlogged soils.
- Do not land spread between 1st November and 31st January (Closed Period for land - spreading). If necessary store in a slurry or effluent tank.
- Do not spread adjacent to an open stream, lake or watercourse – maintain a buffer zone of at least 5m, but 200m in the case of extraction points for drinking water.
- For safety, all sheep dipping baths should have a suitable cover in place when not in use.

