



## Clean up and secure storage

Clean up after a spray operation to reduce risks.

- Return unused agrichemical to a locked, secure storage area
- Dispose of empty containers, surplus agrichemical mix and washings safely
- Clean protective clothing and equipment.
- Have a thorough shower.

### Recycle/Recover containers

Check if your retailer has a recovery return service.

- 3R Group - 3R.co.nz - has 3 FREE collections in Hawke's Bay a year, and can provide additional collections for a fee.
- Agrecovery, Beards Environmental, and Chemwaste (Auckland) can collect containers for a fee.

### Empty containers

As soon as they become empty, plastic or steel agrichemical containers must be rinsed out three times. After each rinse the washings should be added to the spray tank. Once triple rinsed, the containers are safe for landfill disposal.

Plastic containers can be recycled, visit [www.agrecovery.co.nz](http://www.agrecovery.co.nz).

Containers that have held deadly poisons must not be used for any other purpose.

Other containers can have other uses as long as they have been thoroughly cleaned, but not for human or animal drinking water.

### Surplus mix and washings

Any surplus mix and washings should be sprayed over the application area.

### Unwanted and obsolete agrichemicals

Get rid of your unwanted agrichemicals safely and for free with 3R Group. Their agrichemical contractor collects in Hawke's Bay every four months.

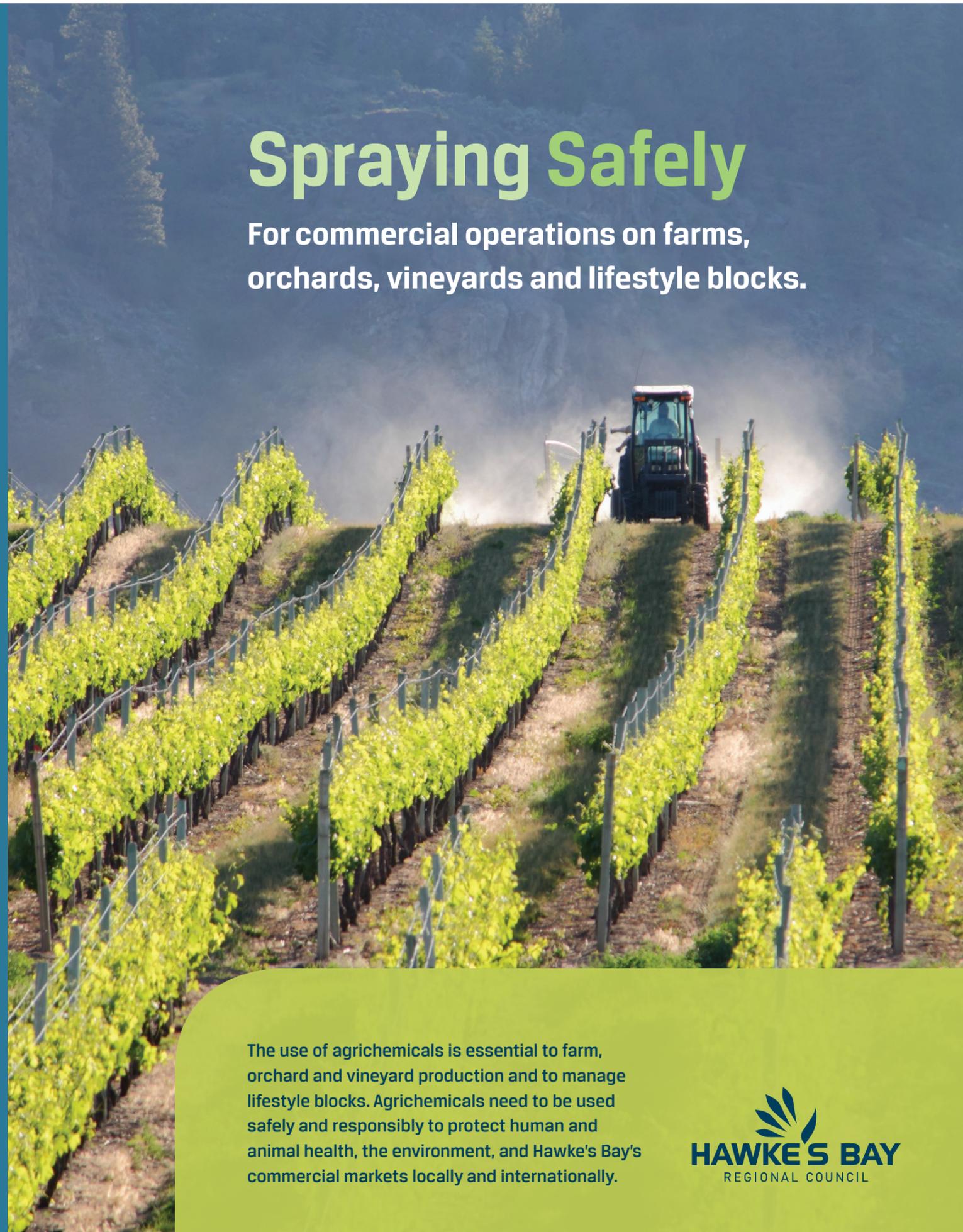
Register for an agrichemical collection by contacting 3R Group [3r.co.nz](http://3r.co.nz) or call 0508 374 768.

### Secure & safe storage

More than 60% of all poisonings with agrichemicals involve children under 5 years old. It is vital that you make sure that children, pets and livestock cannot come into contact with agrichemicals.

Based on the GROWSAFE© Code of Practice for the Management of Agrichemicals NZS 8409:1999 the Agrichemical Storage Checklist is designed to assist farmers and growers to have a safe agrichemical storage shed. Visit [growsafe.co.nz](http://growsafe.co.nz).

If you are storing large volumes of agrichemical also check HSNO requirements with your local council.



# Spraying Safely

For commercial operations on farms, orchards, vineyards and lifestyle blocks.

## Useful information

The GROWSAFE© manual and specific industry crop protection programmes can provide useful management detail, as well as information from chemical suppliers or manufacturers' representatives. Visit [growsafe.co.nz](http://growsafe.co.nz).

Hawke's Bay Regional Council staff can also provide advice on your responsibilities and the needs for a spray plan. Check [hbrc.govt.nz](http://hbrc.govt.nz) search#landadvice for a list of useful website links.

## HBRC contact details

Urgent contact for mis-sprays or spills,  
HBRC Pollution Response 0800 108 838  
Compliance team enquiries, 06 835 9200



The use of agrichemicals is essential to farm, orchard and vineyard production and to manage lifestyle blocks. Agrichemicals need to be used safely and responsibly to protect human and animal health, the environment, and Hawke's Bay's commercial markets locally and internationally.



# Spray drift risks

The wider impact of spray drift cannot be underestimated. Overseas and local markets are now more demanding more socially and environmentally responsible production practices.

Health risks associated with spray drift include asthma, watery eyes and skin rashes, polluted waterways and harm to native wildlife. Spray drift is also a waste of money.

## Spray drift check list

- Know that landowners and contractors are both responsible for spraying safely
- Know the rules, such as taking extra care around boundaries or water
- Use an experienced operator certified GROWSAFE®
- Notify people and use signs where required
- Take care spraying near sensitive areas and buffer zones
- Watch weather conditions and adapt as needed
- These rules are for both organic and conventional sprays.

## Regional rules

Hawke's Bay Regional Council promotes the safe and responsible use of both organic and conventional agrichemicals, through the Regional Resource Management Plan (RRMP).

When applying volumes of agrichemical greater than a knapsack sprayer or a non-motorised handgun sprayer, the person doing the spraying must:

- **Be qualified** - pilots and ground based contractors need additional qualifications.
- **Have a Property Spray Plan** if you spray more than twice a year within 50m of your boundary.
- **Use roadside signs** to alert passers-by.
- **Follow the label** instructions and use the right application method.

View the Regional Resource Management Plan at: [www.hbrc.govt.nz](http://www.hbrc.govt.nz), search #RRMP - refer to Chapter 6, rule 10.

## Consequences for non-compliance

If the requirements of the Resource Management Act and Hawke's Bay Regional Council's Regional Resource Management Plan are not adhered to, this can result in enforcement action and clean up costs. An applicator, owner or occupier can also face civil action or have to pay compensation to affected parties.

## Property spray plans

A property spray plan helps applicators to identify areas sensitive to spray and decide on ways to minimise spray drift.

You must make the spray plan available to neighbours and it can be useful to ask for feedback (see knowledge of neighbourhood). An independent operator must also work to it.

When are property spray plans required for agrichemical and organic spraying?	
Within 50m of a boundary more than 2 times a year.	✓
By commercial applicators	✓
By lifestyle block owners	✓
Using machinery to apply	✓
Using aircraft to apply	✓
In or near sensitive areas and hazard areas such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public water supply catchments and intakes</li> <li>• Rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands, including the riparian margins</li> <li>• Native bush</li> <li>• Public areas – cycle trails, walking tracks, parks, reserves, roadside areas</li> <li>• Organic or other sensitive crops.</li> <li>• Neighbouring hedges</li> <li>• Schools, early childhood centres, education camps</li> <li>• Houses and community facilities,</li> <li>• Public roads &amp; footpaths.</li> </ul>	✓
Using hand held spray units	X
Home gardens	X

## Free spray plan software

HortPlus has a free online Spray Plan Manager tool which meets Hawke's Bay Regional Council's property spray plan requirements - [www.sprayplan.co.nz](http://www.sprayplan.co.nz).

Once you have registered, you will be guided through a simple step-by-step process to collate information into a plan for printing or emailing.

## Know your agrichemicals

Understand the chemicals you intend to use, and check the label. Special care may be needed with specific sprays, e.g. hormone based sprays.

## Organic agrichemical management

Although organic materials are considered natural, they still contain chemical compounds that can be harmful.

The most common complaints about organic production in Hawke's Bay are about the odour from lime sulphur applications. Lime sulphur has relatively low toxicity when compared to other sprays, but irritates the respiratory system, unprotected skin and eyes.

## Agrichemical sprayer filler pad

A Sprayer Filler Pad is an area designed to collect any spillage of agrichemical mixtures and concentrates. Every person still has a duty to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effect on the environment.

A detailed information sheet is on [hbrc.govt.nz](http://hbrc.govt.nz), search #infosheet.

## Good spray operation

- Place nozzles within the air stream and not across it in forced air systems.
- Apply as close as practical to the target.
- Apply the largest effective droplet size that will give good coverage of the target with the minimum of off-target drift. Increase the flow rates of your application (more litres per hectare).
- Use a drift control additive.

## Experienced operators

Commercial operators and small block holders/lifestylers need to comply with the guidelines and be properly qualified/certified - see the GROWSAFE® website for these requirements. Consider hiring a professional contractor to spray for you in tricky conditions or on larger areas.

Contact GROWSAFE® (04)472 9997 or [www.growsafe.co.nz](http://www.growsafe.co.nz)

## Know your neighbourhood

Be a good neighbour.

When people don't know what is being sprayed they can imagine the worst. Use signs. Contact neighbours as required and provide your spray plan. Let potentially affected neighbours know when plans change.

Know what happens in your neighbourhood - school hours, peak travel, nearby sensitive areas and crops, and bee hives. Build this information into the spray plan.

Where you can, please adapt your spraying to meet neighbours needs. For example, an outdoor celebration on a shared boundary doesn't happen every day, so putting off spraying for 24 hours can help neighbourhood relationships.

## Sensitive areas & buffer zones

### Sensitive Environmental Areas

Spraying needs to be accurately targeted near streams, drains, rivers, lakes, and wetlands as chemicals can kill fish, birds, aquatic plants and other wildlife. On slight slopes going down to a waterbody, do not spray closer than 2-5 metres from the edge; on steep slopes keep up to 20 metres away. Take extra care if you are spraying near populated areas, or other people's crops.

### Buffer Zones

For sensitive areas other than riparian areas, buffer zones are only one of many methods to manage and reduce spray drift hazard. The minimum buffer zone distances specified by RRMP, Rule 10 (see below) should be used as a guideline when spraying. Care still needs to be taken to assess risk/effect in each circumstance.

Distance (metres) from sensitive areas		
Application method	With Shelter *	Without shelter
Boom Sprayer	2	10
Orchard Sprayer	10	30
Aerial application	100	200

\* Shelter should be complete and without gaps at the base.

## Check weather conditions

Always check weather conditions and wind direction forecast when finalising a spray operation. Dead calm might not be the best conditions, and it can be preferable when a light breeze is blowing away from the non-target area.

Recheck the weather during spraying and make adjustments if necessary. Stop spraying until conditions improve. If spray drift is likely to cross boundaries or sensitive areas such as schools and homes, roads and pathways (especially at busy travel times), or organic farms, stop spraying until conditions improve.

## Signs and notifying

Where large scale commercial spraying is planned, the agent, owner or occupier of the property must inform anyone who could be directly affected. It is not necessary to notify neighbours when using non-motorised hand held applicators.

Notification must be no earlier than 20 days and no later than 12 hours before use, unless an agreed form of notification has been reached between the parties (annual spray plan or individual notification for specific chemicals). Signs, letter drops or advertisements in local newspapers may be necessary.