Prevent the risk of agrochemicals and stock remedies being used to poison livestock, people and even to destroy crops. Losses are costly and can be avoided by efficient security.

Safety

- Keep agrochemicals locked away from children and untrained workers or those who cannot read.
- Lock away chemicals safely in a separate store so that cross-contamination of food, feed, seed and fertiliser by spillage or vapours from volatile chemicals will not occur.
- In the case of fire or floods these materials will be confined to one area.

Product separation

- Separate herbicides from other agrochemicals.
- “Very toxic/Toxic” products should be grouped together.
- Flammable products should be interspersed with non-flammable products of their own group.

Quality assurance

- Chemicals stored under dry, cool conditions will not deteriorate as rapidly as those exposed to extreme temperatures and moisture.
- A well-organised store will prevent the wrong remedy being chosen accidentally.
Stacking of products

Cement floors tend to sweat. Therefore, to prevent damage to cartons or paperbags, these should:

- be placed on pallets
- not be stacked against exterior walls.

Where to place the store

The store should at least be 5 m from other buildings. It must not be near:

- a dwelling house
- buildings for livestock
- rivers, dams, boreholes and areas likely to be flooded
- buildings where feed, fodder, fuel and other inflammable materials are stored.

Other unacceptable places to store agrochemicals are:

- cellars
- garages
- workshops
- other rooms which are used frequently.

Construction

Floor

- Use smooth screeded concrete.
- Floor to wall joints must be made watertight.
- Earth, timber, bitumen, PVC or linoleum and coarse unscreeded concrete are not acceptable.
Walls

- Walls should be made of bricks or concrete blocks.
- Place airbricks or vents 200 mm from the floor and/or at roof level.
- Good ventilation is important. In areas where severe sandstorms occur, wind direction should be considered when placing vents.

Roof

- The roof must not leak.
- It should be fitted with some form of insulation to maintain temperature at a reasonable level.
- Vents in the roof will allow hot air to escape during summer.

Doors

Steel doors with an effective locking system are recommended.

Windows

- Windows should allow enough light into the store so that the product labels can be read easily.
- Windows should be at/or above head height and burglar barred.

Never use household items in the store!

Equipment

- The store should contain:
  - a table
  - scoops
  - measuring jugs
  - buckets
  - a scale.
• Clean the equipment at the end of each working day to avoid possible contamination of products. A wash trough is recommended for this purpose.

• In case of spills, have on hand a:
  – broom
  – spade
  – supply of dry, fine sand.

• Provide large open-ended containers (⅓ of a 200 ℓ drum) for disposal of contaminated material and into which leaking containers can be placed.

• Protective equipment must be available. These include:
  – overalls
  – rubber gloves
  – face shields
  – goggles
  – boots.

*Protective clothing should be washed in a basin and not together with household clothing*

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