



AGRECOVERY

Question and Answers about the programme

Q: What is the Agrecovery Container collection Programme?

A: Agrecovery is a voluntary product stewardship programme for the collection of triple rinsed agrichemical plastic containers (60 litre and under). The programme is for the agriculture, horticulture and forestry sector.

Q: Why do we need Agrecovery?

A: The Programme has been developed to provide a sustainable and environmentally preferred alternative to land filling and/or burning containers. Farmers and growers want practical solutions for managing these containers. Compliance programmes, such as EUREPGAP, are placing increased pressure on them to manage disposal of containers more sustainably. Most developed countries already have container recovery programmes in place.

Q: How is the Programme Managed?

A: The Agrecovery Foundation “owns” and governs the programme. The Foundation is a not for profit charitable trust. Its trustees are Agcarm (Agrichemical Industry Association), Federated Farmers, Horticulture NZ, Environment Waikato (for LGNZ) and Fonterra. New Zealand Agrichemical Education Trust is the programme administrator and 3R Group Ltd is the programme manager who delivers the services and accounts for programme performance

Q: Who pays for the Agrecovery programme?

A: Brand owners (chemical supply companies) who support the programme collect a levy placed on every litre of eligible products sold into the New Zealand market. This levy (13 cents per litre) is passed on to the foundation that pays for the costs of running the programme.

Q: Will there be any cost to Councils?

A: No. All costs are covered by Agrecovery. Some councils have offered to make “in kind” contributions and allow their staff or contractors to be Agrecovery trained, to run the service, and keep the collection site open longer hours. (What about promotion?)

Q: Will there be any cost to users of the service?

A: Not at the service point when they return containers for recycling. Take back is free for all eligible containers (Agrecovery brand owner's products). The levy is likely to be passed down and included in the price of the agrichemical products purchased.

Q: What type of containers will be accepted?

A: Agrecovery will take back HDPE (Grade 2) plastic containers (60litre and under) provided they have been triple rinsed and cleaned. Only products/ brands that belong to the companies that support Agrecovery (pay the levy) can be accepted. The collection site and the website have the details on what brands/ products are eligible containers.

Q: Can farmers/ growers return all plastic containers?

A: No. Agrecovery **will not** collect containers from any brand owner that does not support the programme. (The majority of agrichemical companies are supportive of Agrecovery). If a customer has other containers they must purchase some “user pay stickers” from the Agrecovery website www.agrecovery.co.nz

Q: How many collection sites will there be?

A: There will be 52 collection sites across New Zealand initially. As the programme develops, and the volume increases, the number of sites will increase. Details on the collection sites and when they are open can be found on the Agrecovery website (www.agrecovery.co.nz).



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Q: How do I prepare my containers for take back to a collection site?

A: Triple rinse and clean your containers thoroughly. You can get a copy of the triple rinsing brochure from the collection site or the Agrecovery website. Your containers must also be a brand/ product that support the programme. If they aren't you can still recycle them but you will need to buy some stickers through the website and place these on the containers.

Q: Should I remove the cap and the label from the container?

A: Remove the cap and dispose but **do not** remove the label.

Q: Is there any limit to the number of containers I can bring to a collection site?

A: No but it would help the collection site staff if you brought your containers in regularly rather than stock pile on-farm then deliver in large numbers.

Q: What happens when I deliver my containers to a collection site?

A: You will be asked to fill in a declaration form to confirm that you have triple rinsed and cleaned your containers. An Agrecovery inspector will inspect your containers and either accept them or reject them. He will supply you with a copy of the declaration form which will be useful as a compliance certificate to acknowledge that you have recovered your containers responsibly.

Q: Why is there an inspection process?

A: If your containers are not triple rinsed and contain chemical or liquid residue they are a potential hazard to the people handling the containers (including you) and through the recycling process.

Q: Why might my container be rejected?

A: Your container will be rejected and given back to you to take home if it is dirty, contains chemical or liquid residue anywhere on the container. It will also be rejected if it is a product/ brand that are not part of the programme (that company does not collect the levy).

Q: Will there be a place at the collection site where I can triple rinse my containers

A: No. Your containers must be thoroughly cleaned on-farm before they are brought into the collection site.

Q: What can we do about establishing more sites in our region?

Call 3R Group Ltd to discuss this. Large scale applicators can potentially obtain a direct collection service. This will require their staff to be trained to inspect containers. If this could be applicable to a business in your district please contact us.

Q: What sort of container volumes do we expect to recover?

A: Total volume into the market is not accurately known. At this stage approximately 7.5 million litres have been committed to the programme. This represents approximately 370,000 20 litre equivalent containers.

Q: What happens to the plastic?

A: It will be collected by a mobile processing truck that will shred the plastic. It is then delivered to a plastics recycling company in New Zealand to be cleaned and extruded. It will then be reprocessed into a range of end use products such as farm drainage pipe, Hazard ID electrical cable cover etc.