

## Most Commonly Cited Pesticide Violations

No matter our part in agriculture we all try to be compliant when it comes to pesticides, but it is no easy task! With never ending laws and confusing wording, being inspected can be troublesome. Worry no more! According to our area's WSDA pesticide investigator these are the three most commonly cited violations over the year 2022. Have these issues fixed and you'll be sure to impress any inspector.

1. Lack of appropriate signage for the pesticide storage area.

In a pesticide storage area signage is required if any of the following instances occur: The product's signal word is Danger/Poison and/or the label otherwise states that specific signage is required.

2. The pesticide storage area is not secure or locked as required.

Per WAC 16-228-1220, there is a difference in requirement of the pesticide storage area security depending on the signal word of the product. If the signal word is Caution, Warning, or Danger, then the storage area must be "secure". This term is not defined, therefore it is up to the applicator to explain to the WSDA inspector how the area is secure.

For example, an area is not secure if all the pesticides are sitting outside in a pile in the front lawn with a sign that says "Do Not Touch." However, in some instances the products may be secure under a lean-to shed if the area is enclosed by a fence. Each instance must be specifically evaluated.

If the signal word on a product is Danger/Poison (note this is different from just Danger) the 1220 WAC states the storage must be locked.

3. The housekeeping of the pesticide storage area is poor, if not non-existent.

This could show up in a number of forms. The product containers might have residues on the outside of them or be split. There may be tripping hazards. There could be product jugs missing lids and labels. Whenever possible, try to ensure that products are as tidy as possible.

We understand that no one likes being inspected, but now that you know the three most common violations you will feel better prepared. Another great resource to help you, often referred to as the Blue Book, covers the major laws and rules you should know, but in much less technical terms. Make sure to give it a quick read!