

NSW Cut Flower Industry

Responsible Chemical Disposal: ChemClear

Background

Responsible management and disposal of unused, excess, or expired chemicals is important for minimising risk on your farm. If not handled and stored correctly, these chemicals may deteriorate, leak, or become hazardous, posing risk to both human health and the environment.

Effective chemical management is especially critical during natural disasters, such as floods, when containers may be damaged and chemicals released into surrounding ecosystems.

This factsheet outlines the ChemClear program - an industry-funded service that coordinates the safe collection and disposal of registered agricultural and veterinary (AgVet) chemicals. This provides cut flower growers with a safe, practical solution to manage chemicals. In doing so, the program helps mitigate risk, ensure on-farm safety and regulatory compliance, and promote environmental responsibility.



Image: ChemClear

What is ChemClear?

ChemClear is a national product stewardship program for the responsible collection and disposal of unwanted AgVet chemicals. It offers a free, environmentally responsible solution for flower growers to manage the disposal of unwanted chemicals.

The program is managed by Agsafe, it is supported by and delivered in partnership with various industry stakeholders including manufacturers and local councils. ChemClear helps safeguard public health, protect natural resources, and improve safety standards for agricultural communities nationwide.

→ Key Messages

- **SAFE DISPOSAL WITH CHEMCLEAR**
Use ChemClear to safely dispose of unwanted AgVet chemicals
- **REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH RISKS**
Ensure that chemicals are managed and destroyed safely, reducing risk to people and the planet
- **COST EFFECTIVE SERVICE FOR GROWERS**
Chemicals classified as Group 1 are collected at no cost, for Group 2 chemicals a disposal fee applies
- **EASY PARTICIPATION STEPS**
To participate, simply register your chemicals for collection. ChemClear will notify you once a collection is scheduled in your area



ChemClear provides:

- Free and low-cost disposal of eligible chemicals
- Online and phone registration options
- Local collection events coordinated based on demand.

Since its inception in 2003, ChemClear has facilitated the safe disposal of more than 1 million litres of unused and obsolete chemicals, helping agricultural producers across Australia manage chemical waste effectively and sustainably.

How do I participate?

For those with unwanted, surplus, or expired chemicals interested in participating in the schemes, the following steps should be followed:

- **Make an inventory of chemicals:** Create a list of all unwanted or outdated agricultural chemicals.
- **Register chemicals:** Chemicals can be registered online, by phone or by completing a ChemClear inventory form. A reference number will be provided for each item, and ChemClear will classify them as Group 1 (free collection) or Group 2 (disposal fee applies).
- **Store safely:** Store chemicals in a secure area, away from people, animals, and potential hazards. ChemClear will send storage stickers to assist with labelling and identification until collection day.
- **Drop off chemicals:** Once a collection is scheduled in the area, ChemClear will provide details on the date, location, and time. Registered chemicals should be transported to the designated collection point safely, using a ute or truck.

Note: Registering chemicals helps to determine the demand for collection services. Currently, collections occur 2 to 3 years, with a New South Wales collection completed in mid-2025. However, if all growers with eligible chemicals register them in the system, it may support the case for offering a service within a shorter timeframe.

What happens to chemicals after disposal?

ChemClear's professional team will collect and safely dispose of your chemicals in accordance with strict Environmental Protection Authority guidelines.

- 98% of chemicals are repurposed as an alternate fuel sources for industries like cement manufacturing
- The remaining 2% are treated using specialised technologies, such as Plasma Arc, or stabilised for secure landfilling.

How to register your chemicals online

The online chemical registration process is simple and user-friendly. The below section provides a step-by-step guide to help you complete the registration.

Step 1: Enter your contact details

Begin by filling in your general contact information.

Step 2: Enter your address

Proceed to the next page to enter your address. If your chemical storage location is the same as your home address, simply tick the relevant box to automatically duplicate the address.

Step 3: Add your chemicals

Use the multiple-choice section of the program to select the chemicals you wish to register. Once selected, you will be asked to enter specific details (e.g. container size, expiry date, quantity remaining).

Step 4: Choose a collection option

Once your chemicals are entered, choose one of the following options:

- Be part of a scheduled collection (collections currently occur every 2–3 years)
- Deliver the chemicals yourself.



Need more information?

Visit the ChemClear website: <https://chemclear.org.au>

Register unwanted chemicals:

Website: <https://www.agsafe.org.au/cc-register-chemicals>

Phone: 02 6206 6888

Email: chemclear@agsafe.org.au

Mail: GPO Box 816 Canberra City

This fact sheet has been developed by RMCG with input from Protected Cropping Australia as part of a Storm and Flood Industry Recovery project to reduce chemical use in the NSW cut flower industry



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Australian Government

