



The Agrecovery Container Recycling programme is an environmentally sustainable solution for the recovery of agrichemical and animal health plastic containers.

Disposal of plastics is a persistent and growing problem for the primary sector throughout New Zealand, with millions of agrichemical and animal health containers used nationwide every year.

Compliance programmes and customer driven environmental standards are placing increased pressure on the primary sector to manage their environmental footprint in a positive way.

The Agrecovery rural recycling programme enables farmers and growers to dispose of their plastic containers in a responsible way and provides a better environmental outcome than burning or dumping.

**Recycling your plastic containers through Agrecovery demonstrates your commitment to New Zealand's environment.**

## How it works:

The Agrecovery container recycling programme is financed by a levy on every litre/kilo of eligible product that participating brand owners place into the New Zealand market. This levy is paid to the Agrecovery Foundation.

Farmers, growers and contractors can take eligible triple rinsed containers, from 1 to 60 litre, to Agrecovery collection sites for recycling. Sites are located throughout New Zealand and all containers are inspected before acceptance.

Agrecovery then collects the plastic containers using a specially designed mobile processing truck which shreds and delivers them to a New Zealand plastics recycling company.

The plastic is processed and converted in New Zealand into a range of end uses including underground utility cable covers.

The majority of brand owners who sell agrichemicals and animal remedies into the New Zealand market place are committed to Agrecovery and more are joining every day.

**For a full list of participating brand owners and collection sites visit [www.agrecovery.co.nz](http://www.agrecovery.co.nz)**

Collection sites are located throughout New Zealand.



# 1, 2, 3... Get Rinsing!

Preparing your containers for recycling:



1. Partially fill the container with clean water and replace the cap securely.



2. Shake the container vigorously for at least 30 seconds, so that the rinse water reaches all inside surfaces.



3. Pour the agrichemical rinsate into the dispensing tank. Let it drain for an extra 30 seconds after the flow reduces to drops.

*For other rinsate see instructions below.*

Repeat process 3 times!

## Don't forget:

- ✓ Clean the outside of the plastic container or pail thoroughly to make sure all chemical residue is removed;
- ✓ Do not remove the label;
- ✓ Remove lid and discard (except for pail lids which can be folded and placed inside the pail);
- ✓ Remove wire or plastic handles from pails;
- ✓ If possible, puncture holes in the container to ensure all liquid residue drains out (we won't reject the container if it hasn't been punctured);
- ✓ All containers are inspected before they can be accepted at Agrecovery collection sites.

### Animal Health Rinsate:

Spread rinsate from drenches, dips and other animal health products on to waste ground or pasture, away from watercourses, desirable vegetation and tree roots. Keep livestock and domestic animals out of these areas for the withholding period of the product concerned. Do not allow puddles to form, as these may lead to groundwater contamination or be attractive to wildlife.

### Dairy Hygiene Rinsate:

Detergents can be rinsed out into the wash tub for the next milking machinery clean (acid rinsings in acid wash water, alkali rinsings in alkali wash, etc).

## What containers can I recycle?

Most plastic HDPE (2) agrichemical and animal health containers can be recycled through the Agrecovery programme, including some HDPE Plastic Pails. The containers and pails must be products of the brand owners that support the programme.

If you have containers which are not covered under the programme you can still recycle these through the programme by purchasing "User Pays" stickers from the Agrecovery website. These stickers must be placed on your containers.

Visit [www.agrecovery.co.nz](http://www.agrecovery.co.nz) for a full list of eligible products.







**Q Who should use Agrecovery?**

The programme can be used by growers, farmers, orchardists, contractors, forestry companies, green keepers, vet clinics, and anyone else who uses agrichemical and animal health chemicals.

**Q Who pays for the Agrecovery programme?**

Brand owners (agrichemical and animal health supply companies) who support the programme collect a levy placed on every litre of eligible products sold into the New Zealand market. This levy is passed on to the foundation that pays for the costs of running the programme.

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

Take back is free for all products produced by brand owner companies that support Agrecovery. The levy charged on each litre of product is likely to be passed down and included in the purchase price of the agrichemical and animal health products. For non-eligible containers a "User Pays" sticker can be purchased from Agrecovery allowing those containers to be recycled.

**Q Where are the collection sites?**

There are container collection sites across New Zealand. A map with site opening hours can be downloaded from the Agrecovery website. Large scale applicators may be able to arrange a direct collection service. This will require their staff to be trained to inspect containers and is dependent on volume and our service schedule. Contact Agrecovery to discuss.

**Q What can I do about establishing more sites in my region?**

Agrecovery is constantly looking to extend its opening hours at all current sites as well as create new sites. If you think your region needs more collection sites please contact us on 0800 AGRECOVERY.

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

No, but it would help the collection site staff if you brought your containers in regularly rather than stock pile and deliver in large numbers.

**Q What type of containers will be accepted?**

Agrecovery will take back HDPE (Grade 2) plastic containers (1 to 60 litres) and pails, provided they have been triple rinsed and cleaned. Only products that belong to the brand owner companies that support Agrecovery (ie. pay the levy) can be accepted. To find out what products are eligible please contact Agrecovery. Non-Agrecovery containers can be accepted if you have purchased a "User Pays" sticker in advance.

**Q How do I prepare my containers to be accepted at a collection site?**

Triple rinse and clean your containers thoroughly as per the rinsing guide in this brochure. Remove the lid and puncture the container (if possible). Do not remove the label as this proves the container is eligible for take back. You can get a copy of the triple rinsing brochure from the collection site or the Agrecovery website.

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

Remove the cap and discard. Pail lids can be folded and placed inside the pail. Do not remove the label.

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

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 or reject them. The inspector 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?**

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

**Q Can my containers be rejected?**

Yes. Your container will be rejected and given back to you to take home if it has not been cleaned properly, or contains chemical or liquid residue anywhere on the container. It will also be rejected if it is a product/ brand that is not part of the programme and does not have an Agrecovery "User Pays" Sticker attached.

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

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

**Q What happens to the plastic?**

It is collected by a mobile processing truck that shreds the container plastic into small pieces. It is then delivered to a recycling company in New Zealand to be cleaned and reprocessed. The processed plastic is then made into a range of end use products right here in New Zealand such as a cover for protecting underground utility lines such as electricity, gas, telecommunication and water.

# You Beauty!



**Ian Kirkpatrick:**  
**Former All Black and**  
**Gisborne Farmer**

"Agrecovery's really the way to go. I'd encourage all farmers to take their containers to be recycled. It's a straight forward process, and it gives me peace of mind knowing I'm doing the right thing."



**Ru Collin: HortNZ**  
**Director and Orchardist**

"A compliance certificate is issued when you return containers. This makes it very easy for growers to prove they are improving environmental performance which is increasingly required to meet industry and market standards."



**Ben Absolom:**  
**Rissington Breedline**  
**Farmer**

"I am convinced that programmes like Agrecovery are absolutely key to my future farm success. Customers are prepared to pay more for products that support sustainable farming practices."



**Gary Wellwood:**  
**Orchardist**

"The fact there is an environmentally-friendly way to dispose of plastic agrichemical containers and that something useful can be created out of them makes being part of the Agrecovery programme a win-win scenario."



**Andrew Dodds:**  
**Vineyard Manager,**  
**Pernod-Ricard**

"If two products sit side by side and one is in a recyclable container that is part of the Agrecovery programme and the other not, we will always go for the former."



**Mark Juett: Grower,**  
**A S Wilcox & Sons**

"A S Wilcox is very proactive around the issues of sustainability and wanted to get on board with Agrecovery since day one. In order for us to be in business long-term we need to be looking after our environment."



**Helen Walker:**  
**Orchardist**

"The rural sector needs to take the lead. Our livelihood depends on looking after the soil and the environment and we don't want to leave a legacy that someone else has to sort out in 100 years' time."



**Steve Marsden:**  
**Manager, Cape**  
**Kidnappers Golf Course**

"We aim to buy from participating brand owners only. I would recommend other golf courses take part in Agrecovery – if they are not using it, they need to be asking themselves why not."

**They are doing their bit to protect New Zealand's environment. What about you?**

## About Agrecovery

Agrecovery is a not-for-profit charitable trust put together by primary sector stakeholders to resolve 'on-farm' waste issues.

It is governed by the Agrecovery Foundation whose trustees represent:

- Federated Farmers
- Horticulture New Zealand
- Fonterra
- Agcarm
- Environment Waikato (for Local Government)



**AGRECOVERY**  
Rural Recycling Programme

Agrecovery is widely supported by industry and its services are provided for New Zealand's primary sector.

Agrecovery also provides you with the Wrap Recycling programme and the Chemicals programme for the safe disposal of unwanted or expired chemicals in agriculture. In future Agrecovery also intends to help you with the recovery of large drums.

All Agrecovery programmes are Product Stewardship Initiatives. For more information visit [www.agrecovery.co.nz](http://www.agrecovery.co.nz)