



## Sprayer Cleanout 2017

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Proper sprayer cleanout is an important practice that prevents crop damage in future applications. This article covers the general procedures for sprayer cleanout, but many new products have strict cleanout procedures on the label that should be followed. For products without specific directions follow the guidelines listed below.

### General Procedure for sprayer cleanout:

1. Drain tank and rinse tank with clean water. Spray rinse water through the spray boom for at least 5 minutes.
2. Fill the sprayer tank with clean water and label identified cleaning solution. Agitate for 15 minutes.
3. Allow solution to set for 8 hours.
4. Spray the cleaning solution through the booms.
5. Clean nozzles, screens, and filters. Rinse the sprayer with water to remove cleaning solution and spray rinsate through the booms.



### Things to Remember:

- Do not leave an uncleaned sprayer empty overnight. Spray residues can dry to the tank walls and contaminate future spray loads as the residue slowly comes into solution.
- Do not mix chlorine bleach and ammonia for a cleaning solution as this produces a dangerous chlorine gas that can kill quickly if inhaled.
- Check for and replace cracked hoses as these areas can accumulate pesticide residues.
- Refer to the label for appropriate cleaning solutions and proper disposal of rinsate. Not all cleaners are the same and some can cause open wounds on bare skin within seconds.
- Proper sprayer cleanout is worth the time investment as the cost of contamination and the resulting crop damage can be very high.

### Information Credit:

Mark Bloomquist-Director of Research  
Cody Groen-Production Agronomist  
Zollinger, R. 2017. North Dakota Weed  
Control Guide. NDSU Extension Service.

