

After the Fumigation: Clean-up & Disposal



The responsibilities associated with fumigation of commodities does not end once the product has been declared “Gas Free”. The good fumigator wants to leave the facility in a cleaner condition when he leaves than it was when he arrived. This final clean-up is what separates a truly good fumigation from a fumigant application. How well the sealing materials, warning placards, fumigant packaging and other materials brought on-site by the fumigation company are removed is one of the lasting images left to the customer.

There is quite a bit of misinformation being bandied about regarding the residual dust and fumigant packages that remain after a fumigation. The EPA approved Applicator’s Manual states that “if properly exposed, the residual dust remaining after fumigation with Phostoxin® will be a grayish-white powder”. This powder does not meet EPA’s standard for being classified as a RCRA hazardous waste. The EPA characterizes a hazardous waste based on the criteria of ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity and toxicity. The residual dust or spent fumigant packages associated with a Phostoxin® fumigation do not meet any of these criteria. In fact, the spent dust is not only considered safe for disposal in a sanitary landfill but safe enough that metal phosphide fumigants can be added directly to raw agricultural commodities. For anyone interested, Degesch can provide laboratory analysis from an environmentally accredited lab to support the fact that the spent residues do not meet any of the aforementioned criteria. The aluminum flasks and cardboard boxes that Phostoxin® is packaged in and the steel pails that the Prepac® and Prepac® Rope are packed in can be offered for recycling. This analytical data, the support of the EPA and the long history of safe use and disposal of Phostoxin® are proof positive that these residues present no known hazard when disposed of properly.



Disposal Basket

In conclusion, Phostoxin® fumigants have been registered and used safely in the U.S. for the better part of 60 years. The residual dust or spent fumigant packages are not considered to be a Hazardous Waste. Some municipalities/landfills might classify the residual products as “Special Waste” and require notification prior to disposal. Disposal of spent fumigant dust or packages is not normally a difficult task but some pre-planning may be required. Degesch America, Inc. is always willing to assist any user of our products with the proper disposal of the spent residual material that remains after a fumigation. Degesch America, Inc. offers several items designed to aid with the collection, storage and ultimate disposal of our fumigant products such as our “Disposal Basket” and “Disposal Drum”.



Disposal Drum

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.



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