**NEVER** pour unused pesticide down a drain or sink

## Protecting Drinking Water from Pesticides

# Advice for Gardeners and Household Users

Promoting best practice in the use of pesticides to protect drinking water

**Examples of pesticide products commonly used in gardens and around the house include weedkillers, insecticides, fungicides, rodent poisons and slug pellets.**

**It is essential to take great care when storing, handling or using any pesticide as even a trace amount going down a drain or entering a water course can end up in drinking water.**

**Certain levels of weeds and insects are important to the natural environment. Consider whether you need to use the pesticide. Is the organism really causing lasting damage?**

### DOs

**DO** recycle empty containers in your recycling bin or at a Local Authority Civic Amenity Site. If unsure about any aspect of container disposal, enquire at purchase outlet.

**DO** dispose of unused product properly at a Civic Amenity Site or at a mobile collection as organised by some Local Authorities. Contact your Local Authority for further details.

**DO** store all pesticides in a dry, secure location which cannot result in accidental leaks to drains, wells or water courses - and out of children's reach.

**DO** read and follow the instructions for use carefully to get the best results.

**DO** take extra care to prevent entry to drains, particularly if applying pesticides to hard surfaces such as paths or driveways.

### DON'Ts

**DON'T** dispose of unused pesticide or rinse water from pesticide containers down a drain or sink. Container washings can be applied to the treated area. Check with your local Civic Amenity Site if you have unused product for disposal.

**DON'T** apply pesticides if it is raining, if the area being treated is wet, or if rain is forecast.

**DON'T** use pesticides near drains, wells or water courses such as rivers, streams or lakes.

For further information visit **www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie**, **www.teagasc.ie** or **www.epa.ie**