

**WAT-G-063**

**EASR Guidance: Permit Activity: The disposal of waste sheep dip, waste sheep cosmetic products or waste Plant Protection Products (PPPs)**

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# 1. Purpose

This document provides information and guidance for anyone undertaking the disposal by application to vegetated land, of waste sheep dip, waste sheep cosmetic products or waste Plant Protection Products (PPPs) washings. This requires a permit under The Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations.

This guidance does not cover any other permissions that may be required.

# 2. Understanding the activity

Sheep dipping can play an important part in the maintenance of good animal welfare. Following dipping, all waste dip should be removed from the dipper within 24 hours of the completion of dipping. The waste sheep dip should then either be taken off-site and disposed of in accordance with waste activity requirements or applied to vegetated land in accordance with an EASR water permit.

This activity only authorises the disposal of waste sheep dip, waste sheep cosmetic products and waste Plant Protection Products (PPPs) washings by application to vegetated land. It does not cover the discharges of these substances to soakaway. SEPA would be unlikely to authorise such a discharge.

This authorisation does not cover the movement of the waste off the farm. If you want to move the waste off the farm you will either need to apply for a waste carriers registration or give the waste to someone authorised to collect other people's waste.

You do not require a permit for disposal of PPP washings to land if you:

* Wash the sprayer in the field and apply any left-over solution and tank rinsings to the crop being treated. You should ensure that the maximum dose approved for the crop is not exceeded.
* Wash down the sprayer in a fully contained wash down area and dispose of the washings via a waste disposal contractor.
* Dispose of the washings to a lined biobed or biofilter.

The requirement to hold and comply with the conditions of a permit to dispose of waste sheep dip to land forms part of [Cross Compliance](https://www.ruralpayments.org/topics/inspections/all-inspections/cross-compliance/detailed-guidance/good-agricultural-and-environmental-conditions/protection-of-groundwater-against-pollution--gaec-3/) and any non-compliances can result in a penalty being applied by Scottish Government to any support payments.

# 3. How many disposal sites can I apply for?

You can only use a disposal site once a year. If you need to dispose of waste sheep dip more than once a year you will need to apply for multiple disposal sites. You can apply for multiple disposal sites as a single activity under an EASR permit.

# 4. Understanding and minimising risks to the water environment

## 4.1. Risks to the water environment

The chemicals used in sheep dips and waste sheep cosmetic products are very toxic to groundwater and surface waters such as watercourses and lochs. PPPs can also cause significant adverse impacts on the water environment if inappropriately disposed of. Groundwater is important not only in maintaining river flows but is also a very important source of drinking water, particularly for private water supplies in rural areas. Many farms and other businesses, such as whisky distilleries, are dependent on clean groundwater for watering livestock, crop irrigation and food and drink production.

You need to dispose of the waste to a suitable site so that:

* The soil and vegetation allows the absorption of dangerous substances to soil particles allowing them to degrade.
* The land allows the infiltration of the waste sheep dip so there is no run-off or pooling of the waste sheep dip on the surface of the ground.
* There is no risk to sensitive receptors such as water supplies.

## 4.2. Minimising risks to the water environment

To minimise the risk to the water environment you should try to choose a disposal area that:

* Is well vegetated. For example, grass, rough grazing or stubble.
* Is not prone to waterlogging or flooding.
* Is not a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area or Special Area of Conservation.
* Is greater than 10m from a watercourse (including ditches) or a loch.
* Is not close to a water supply for human consumption. You can ask your neighbours and consult the local authority to find out if there any nearby. You will be asked to supply a map showing the location and type of any water supply for human consumption within 500m of the disposal area. You should try and avoid disposal areas that are:
  + Within 500m of a pumped well or borehole.
  + Within 50m and downslope of a gravity fed spring or well.
  + Within 500m and upslope of a gravity fed spring or well.
* Is not within 50m of any other springs, wells or boreholes.
* Has land that is flat or with slope of less than 5°.
* Has an organic rich and/or loamy soil.
* Has a good soil structure. For example, the soil is not compacted.
* The topsoil has a pH of between 5 and 7.5.
* Has at least 60cm of soil above bedrock or gravel.
* Has more than 60cm of soil above any field drains and the surrounding gravel backfill.
* Does not have a new drainage system (including mole drainage[[1]](#footnote-2)) installed or has had the land subsoiled (deep tillage) within the last 12 months.
* Is greater than 10m from a public footpath or right of way.

You will need to provide details of each of your disposal areas when you apply for a permit. If your site doesn’t meet all the above criteria SEPA may still authorise the disposal on full consideration of the site-specific circumstances.

# 5. Disposal area size and application rate

Each disposal area needs to be big enough to allow for the disposal of all the dip left in the dipper. Prior to disposal you should dilute the sheep dip with water or slurry at a ratio of 3 parts water or slurry to one part waste sheep dip. Diluting the waste sheep dip with slurry may assist with decomposition and breakdown processes due to the promotion of microbial activity within the soil.

You must spread the final diluted waste sheep dip at a rate of no more than 4,000 litres per 0.2 hectares. You must ensure that your disposal site is big enough to allow for this. Table 1 provides a look up table to help with this calculation.

**Table 1: Area of land required for waste sheep dip disposal**

| **Final waste dip volume prior to dilution (litres)** | **Disposal volume once diluted 1:3 waste dip to water (litres)** | **Minimum disposal area required (hectares)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 225 | 900 | 0.045 |
| 337 | 1350 | 0.067 |
| 450 | 1800 | 0.09 |
| 562 | 2250 | 0.112 |
| 675 | 2700 | 0.135 |
| 787 | 3150 | 0.157 |
| 900 | 3600 | 0.18 |
| 1800 | 7200 | 0.36 |
| 2700 | 10800 | 0.54 |
| 3600 | 14400 | 0.72 |
| 4500 | 18000 | 0.9 |

You must apply the effluent evenly to the disposal site.

# 6. Fast tracking applications

If SEPA receives written confirmation of an outbreak of sheep scab or the existence of an increased risk of transmission from a veterinary surgeon in conjunction with an application or applications SEPA will fast track the application. This will reduce the period we consult with other stakeholders.

# 7. SEPA site visit

SEPA will normally undertake a site visit to check the suitability of the land.

# Disclaimer

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* any direct, indirect and consequential losses
* any loss or damage caused by civil wrongs, breach of contract or otherwise

SEPA reserves the right to depart from this guidance and take appropriate action as it considers necessary or appropriate. Operators are responsible for ensuring that they are compliant with the law. If necessary, independent legal / specialist advice should be sought.

1. Unlined channels under the ground that improve natural drainage. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)