

Mobile dipping contractors - Handling and disposing of waste sheep dip

Sheep dip products safeguard sheep from pests like scab, blowfly, ticks and lice. They contain chemical insecticides and so their misuse or careless use and/or their disposal can result in pollution of groundwater and/or surface waters. To protect the environment, the disposal of waste sheep dip must only be carried out in accordance with an environmental permit¹ (for a groundwater activity) authorising its discharge.

To avoid causing pollution when using, handling and disposing of sheep dip refer to Defra's Groundwater Protection Code: Use and disposal of sheep dip.

Removing waste dip from the farm for disposal elsewhere.

A waste exemption allows the [temporary storage of waste at a place controlled by the producer of the waste](#).

This means that a mobile sheep dipping contractor can:

- remove the waste dip from farms where they have dipped/showered/jetted sheep;
- temporarily store the waste dip at their premises without having an environmental permit; and
- dispose of the waste dip in accordance with an environmental permit (for a ground water activity).

This exemption does not need to be registered with us but contractors must comply with the conditions and limits set or an offence will have been committed. Mobile sheep dipping contractors can be within the limits of the storage exemption if:

- they dip the sheep and produce the waste dip;
- they take the waste dip back to secure premises they either occupy or own;
- no more than 1000 litres of waste dip is stored at any one time;
- the waste dip is not stored for more than 3 months;
- the waste dip is never mixed with other wastes; and
- the waste sheep dip is stored in a container which has secondary containment e.g. a bund.

This is a summary of the key limits and conditions of the exemption. You must read the full guidance because it is your responsibility to make sure you can comply.

If you cannot comply with the exemption criteria then you will need an environmental permit to store the waste sheep dip. An environmental permit (for a groundwater activity) which

¹ ***All groundwater permits (authorisations) under the old Groundwater Regulations are now known as environmental permits in accordance with the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) 2010.*

authorises the discharge (disposal) of waste sheep dip to land can also include any storage requirements so you just need a single permit to cover both storage and disposal.

Treatment and disposal of waste sheep dip at the farm.

If you have an environmental permit for a groundwater activity then you can dispose of waste sheep dip on the farm where it was used. You must ensure there is sufficient area of land authorised because waste sheep dip must not be disposed of on the same patch of land more than once in any 12 month period.

Organophosphate sheep dip, specifically diazinon, can be treated by an enzyme product. This product breaks down the active ingredient in the dip into less harmful products. There is a waste exemption [treatment of sheep dip for disposal T27](#) which allows the *treatment* of waste sheep dip with organophosphate degrading enzymes at the farm where the sheep were dipped.

In addition, we are developing a simple Standard Permit specifically for the *discharge* of enzyme treated sheep dip as it contains less harmful chemicals than untreated waste sheep dip. Until this Standard Permit becomes available, waste sheep dip must be discharged in accordance with a bespoke environmental permit. See [our website](#) for the latest information on this permit.

Leaving the waste dip at the farm for disposal

- If you leave the waste dip on the farm where the sheep were dipped you must check that the farmer has an environmental permit authorising the discharge of waste sheep dip.

Collecting waste dip from farms where you did not dip the sheep.

If you are collecting and transporting waste sheep dip from farms and it was not generated by your dipping work, you must register as a professional waste carrier and comply with the waste duty of care. This requires you and the farmer to:

- sign and exchange a duty of care waste transfer note; and
- keep a copy of the waste transfer note for at least two years;
- transport the waste sheep dip in suitable secure containers that will prevent the sheep dip leaking; and
- take the waste dip for disposal at a site with an environmental permit that allows them to dispose of the dip. If you collect waste dip that other people produced you cannot store it at your premises without an environmental permit.

A note to mobile dipping contractors on our revised volumes and charge bands for the discharge of waste sheep dip.

Under the Environmental Permitting (EP) Charging Scheme 2010-2011 which came into force on the 06 April 2010, there are changes to the volumes of waste sheep dip that can be permitted under EPR, 2010. This is now a risk based approach covering a revised suite of groundwater charges linked to volumes (small, medium and large liquid discharges). You should consult our [revised charges and volumes](#) in order to make sure you are paying the correct fees for your discharge.

Useful websites:

National Sheep Association

<http://www.nationalsheep.org.uk/>

Defra

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/water/waterquality/ground/sheepdip.htm>

NFU

<http://www.nfuonline.com/>

Environment Agency

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/sectors/32785.aspx>

Useful links and references

[Defra's Groundwater Protection Code: Use and disposal of sheep dip](#)

[Environmental Permitting \(England & Wales\) Regulations 2010](#)

The full [guidance](#) for the waste exemption allowing mobile sheep dippers to store waste sheep dip at their premises

Information about [environmental permits](#)

How to register as a [professional waste carrier](#)

Information about the waste [duty of care and transporting waste](#)