

**Title:** Final FREE Agrichemicals collection in  
Timaru District

**DATE:** 14 January 2009

**FOR RELEASE:** Immediate

Timaru District Council, Environment Canterbury and Ministry for the Environment, will fund a final mop-up collection of redundant agricultural chemicals in late February or early March 2009.

**Background Information**

Agrichemicals, especially in old deteriorating containers, pose a serious threat to the environment, health, property values and even export markets.

Safe disposal of redundant agrichemicals is very expensive, but the environmental clean-up cost of inappropriate disposal is even more expensive.

Timaru district's "free" agricultural chemical collections commenced in 2005/2006, and each year the collection was extended into a new area. The district has now been completely covered and a final mop-up collection will be held in late February/early March 2009 to collect chemicals from properties that may have missed the previous collections.

The collection will be carried out by a specialist hazardous waste contractor who will collect the agrichemicals from farms, or from a central drop-off point, and arrange for their neutralization or destruction.

This year's collection will be the last "free" agrichemical collection because subsidy funding will cease this year. Please note that this year's collection budget is capped and if demand exceeds the budget some properties may miss out on the free collection.

This Media Release has  
been prepared by  
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**We will collect** unwanted or unknown pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides etc, and animal remedies and fertilizers that contain Aldrin, Chlordane, DDT, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlor, HCB (Hexachloro-Benzene), Mirex, Toxaphene (Camphechlor) or other similar substances.

**We will NOT collect** internal animal remedies, asbestos, batteries, chlorine and swimming pool chemicals, empty containers, explosives, household hazardous wastes, paint and used oil, or fertilizers **except for** those containing POPs (persistent organic pollutants – DDT etc ).

If you have a rural property in the Timaru District with redundant agricultural chemicals please contact Ruth Clarke at Timaru District Council on 03 688 7445 before 12 February 2009, or check the website [www.timaru.govt.nz/agchem](http://www.timaru.govt.nz/agchem) to record your disposal requirements.

**ENDS**

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