• If stored in the house, use a raised platform or wooden logs to avoid contact with the ground to prevent mould development.
• Leave enough space from the walls for grain inspection.
• Retreat after 6 months.

a) clean maize  
b) infested maize
Introduction
On farm storage of maize accounts for 80% of all harvested maize in Kenya. Post harvest storage losses of between 20-30 per cent occur within 6 months after harvest if no intervention measures are undertaken. Major losses are from insect pests, rodents and pathogens.

Stored grain pests
Insect pests
- Maize weevils
- Larger grain borer or “scania”
- Moths and red rust flour beetle

Rodents
- Rats and mice

Pathogens
- Moulds and fungus

Various measures to avoid damage include:

Timely harvesting
- Harvesting should be done when the ear (cob) droops.

Proper drying
- Harvesting is done manually followed by drying on platforms or mats on the ground.
- Narrow open-sided crib or open weave baskets are also adequate for drying.
- After drying the maize should be shelled and treated.

Store hygiene
- Stores should be cleaned to get rid of old grain.
- Insecticides are sprayed to kill any existing insects.

Grain treatment
Grain is treated with storage insecticidal dusts at the rate of 50g per 90kg bag available at agrovet stores.
- A container for measuring this amount is available within the package.
- The grain is spread on mats and thoroughly mixed with dust using a shovel.

Points to remember
- Maize should be completely dry to avoid fungal attack.
- Maize with high moisture content also renders the insecticidal dusts ineffective.
- Maize should be shelled and treated and thereafter stored in bags or solid walled containers such as drums.
- Transfer the bagged maize in store or granary and protect from rats with rat guards.