

- 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



### Kenya Agricultural Research Institute

P.O. Box 57811-00200, NAIROBI.

Tel: 254-20-4183301-20, FAX 254-20-4183344

Email: [resource.centre@kari.org](mailto:resource.centre@kari.org)

Website: [www.kari.org](http://www.kari.org)

**Compiled by:**  
Kimondo, M.

For more information contact:

**Centre Director**

KARI Kabete

P.O. Box 14733-00800 Nairobi

Tel: 020-4444144

Email [cdnarl@icconnect.co.ke](mailto:cdnarl@icconnect.co.ke)

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## Post harvest handling and protection of 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.



Drooped ears

## 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.



Proper grain mixing



Maize packed in bags after treatment.

- A fluffle can also be used to mix grain.
- Sunning also removes insects but this should be complemented with insecticidal treatment.
- Rats are controlled through the use of cats, baits or rat guards.

## 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.