

Pesticide Safety for Farmer Assistants

Student Workbook



The Pesticides Act and Regulation 63/09

For Class 2 and 3 pesticides, Assistants must work under the supervision of a Certified Farmer.

When you become an Assistant, there are certain jobs that your boss (a Certified Farmer) can ask you to do. You may:

- get pesticides from the storage area
- transport pesticides in a vehicle
- measure and mix them
- apply them

There are some jobs that only your boss (a Certified Farmer) can do. For Class 2 and 3 pesticides, only a Certified Farmer can:

- choose and buy them
- decide how much to measure, mix and apply
- decide where and how to store and dispose of the pesticides or pesticide containers
- calibrate application equipment
- apply any Class 2 pesticide inside a building if that pesticide produces a mist or fog or is an ultra low volume pesticide.

If you have an accident or a spill when you are working with a pesticide, tell your boss right away.

Your boss (a Certified Farmer) must tell you what to do.

Certified Farmers are responsible for all pesticide handling on the farm, including the pesticide work that you do as an Assistant.

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Student Workbook



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Ontario Vegetable Growers' Marketing Board
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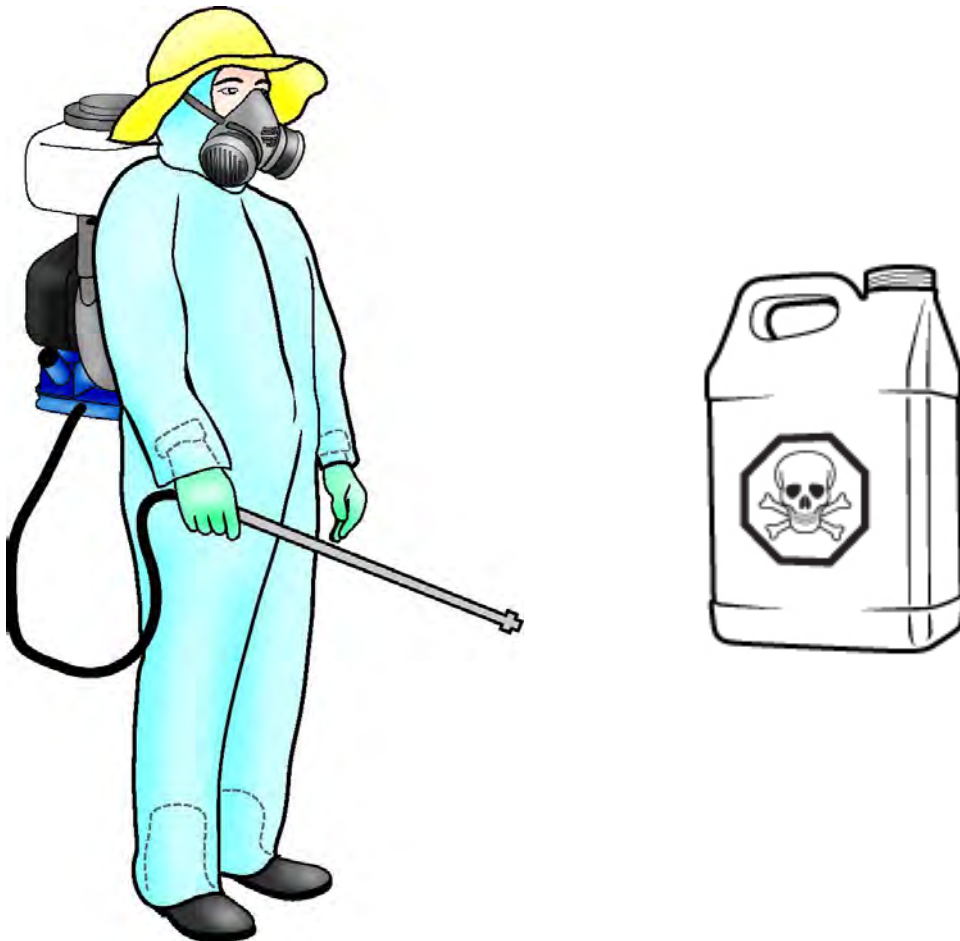
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Know the Danger

Farmers use pesticides to kill insects, weeds, rodents and diseases on plants.

Pesticides can also hurt you, so **protect yourself**.



Know the Danger

You shouldn't get sick from pesticides, if you handle them carefully, and you wear the right clothing and safety equipment.

Pesticide can hurt you, or people you work with if:

- they get in your eyes
- you breathe them in
- you get them in your mouth
- you swallow them
- they get on your skin.



Know the Danger

Some pesticides can make you sick right away.



Know the Danger

Some other pesticides can make you sick months or even years after you get them in you, or on your skin.

You might get sick with cancer,
or have trouble with your
liver, kidneys or nervous
system.



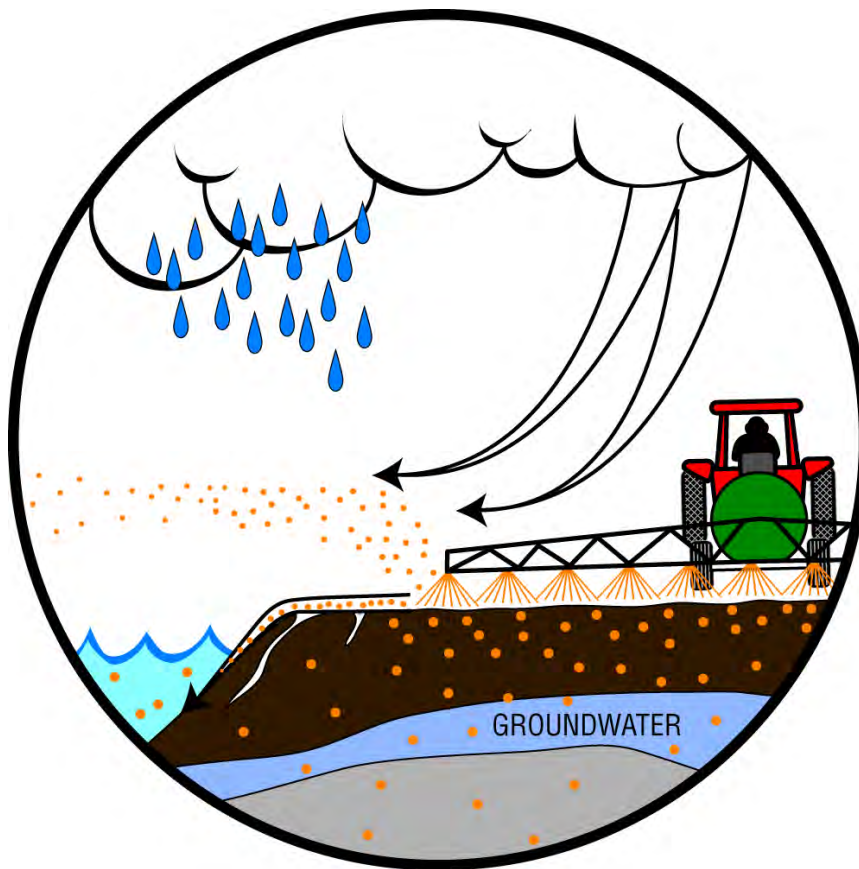
Pregnant women should not
handle or use pesticides.

Some pesticides can harm the baby
before it is born.



Know the Danger

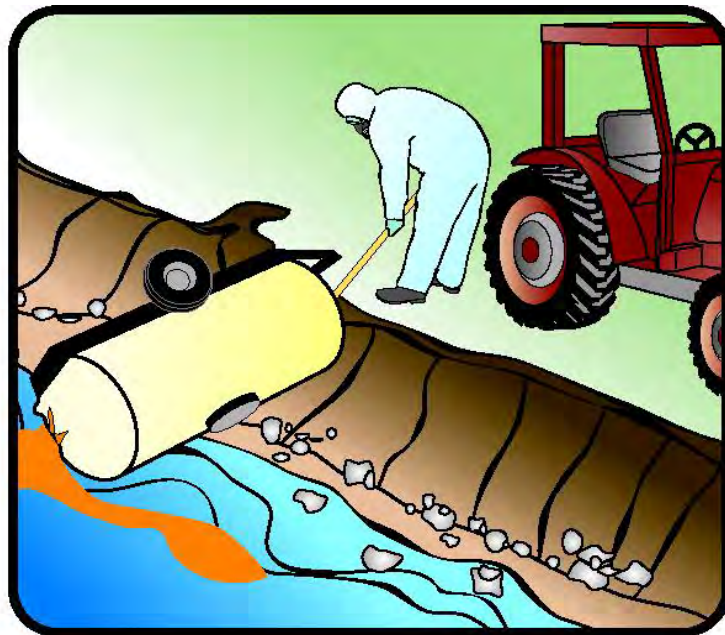
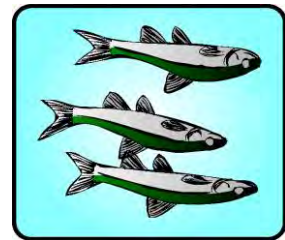
Pesticide can hurt people, animals and other crops, if they get into the air or water.



Know the Danger

Pesticides in water are dangerous.

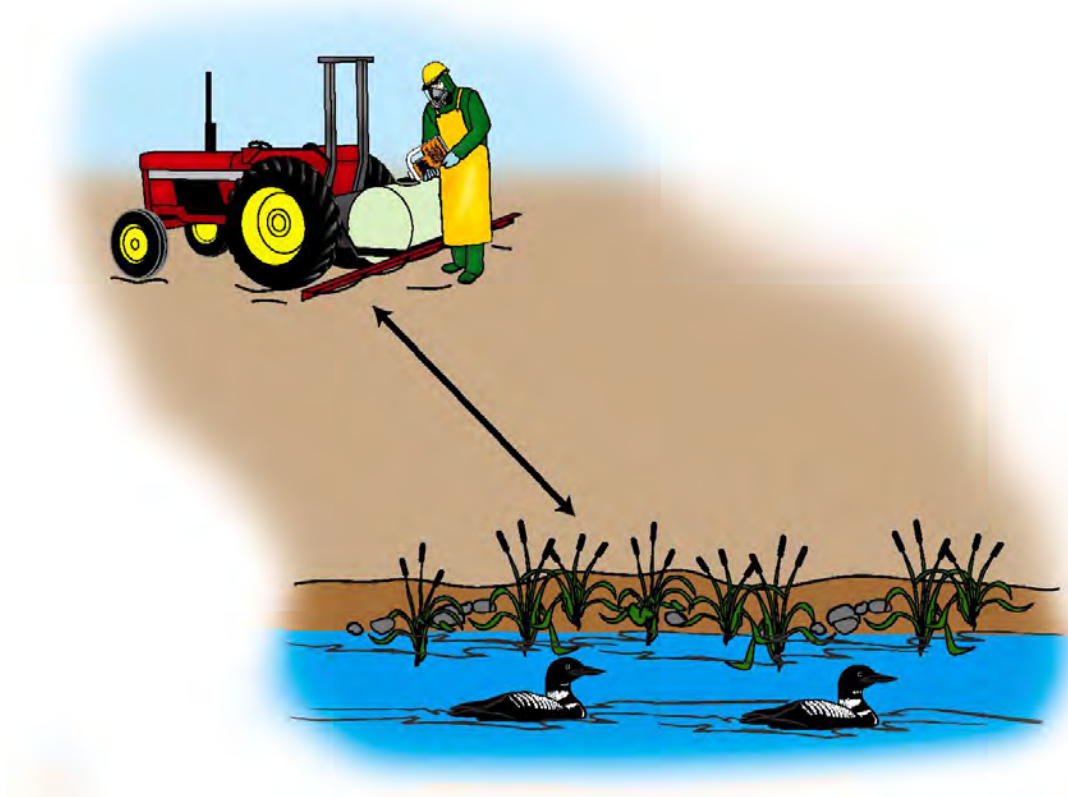
- They can get into the well water that everyone on your farm drinks.
- They can harm the water that the neighbours drink.
- They can kill fish, wildlife and livestock.



Know the Danger

Pesticides can get into water if you:

- spray too close to ponds, streams, ditches or wells.
- spray and it rains before the spray dries.
- spill them.
- overflow the spray tank when you are filling it
- wash equipment too near ponds, streams, ditches or wells.

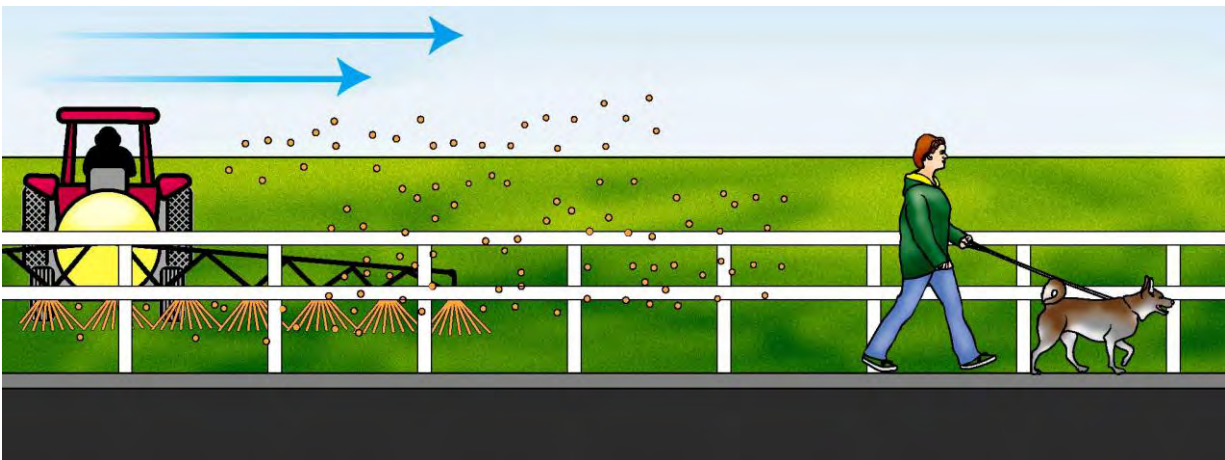


Know the Danger

Pesticides in the air can make people and animals sick when they breathe them in.

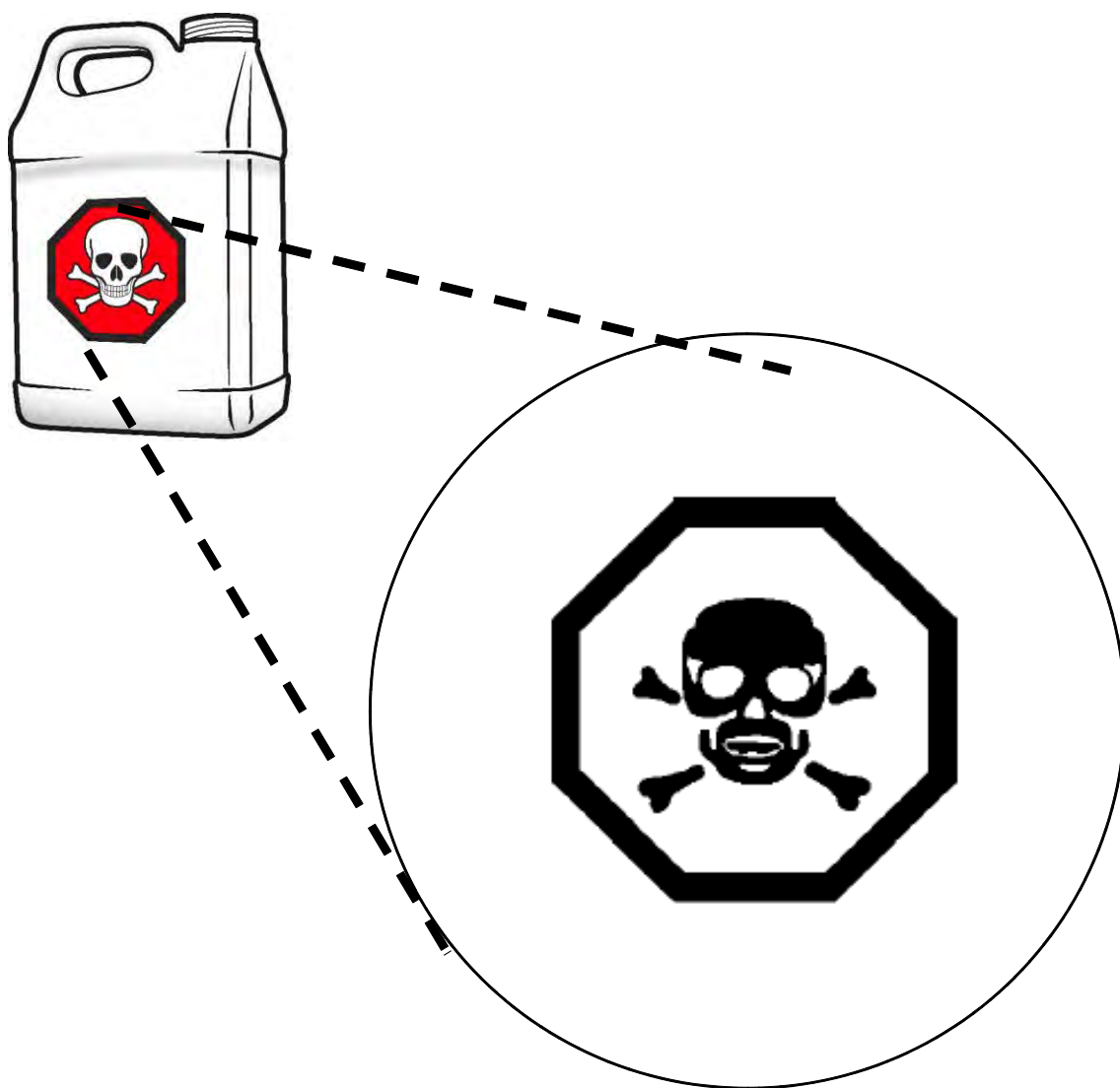
Pesticides can get into the air if you spray when:

- it's windy
- it's very hot and dry.



Know the Symbols

The symbols on the front label of the pesticide jug or bag tell you how the pesticide can hurt you.



Know the Symbols

If you see...



...it tells you that the pesticide is a **poison**.

If you see...



... it tells you the pesticide is **corrosive**.

Corrosive means that it can burn you.

Know the Symbols

If you see.....



... the pesticide is **flammable**.

Flammable means that it can catch on fire.

If you see....



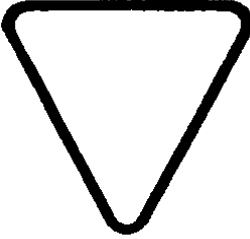
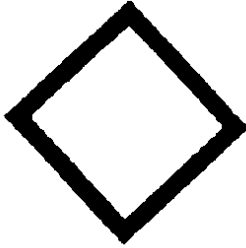
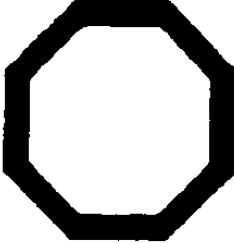
... the pesticide container could **explode**, if it got hot.

Know the Symbols

The symbols on the front label of the pesticide jug or bag tell you how the pesticide can hurt you.

The shape around the picture tells you how serious the danger is.

The more lines (sides) the shape has, the more dangerous that pesticide is.

If the shape has 3 sides, like a YIELD sign ...		...the danger is <u>low</u> .
If the shape has 4 sides, like a warning sign ...		...the danger is <u>medium</u> .
If the shape has 8 sides, like a STOP sign ...		... the danger is <u>high</u> .

Know the Symbols

Remember ...

more sides to the shape
around each picture,
means more danger.

Know the Symbols

The symbols on the front label of the pesticide jug or bag tell you how the pesticide can hurt you.

If you see this picture and shape ...



... it means the danger is very high and that this pesticide can kill you.

What do these pictures and shapes mean?



1 _____



3 _____



2 _____



4 _____

What to Wear

For all pesticides, you need to wear:

water repellent hat

- not cloth

long pants and a shirt with long sleeves, or a coverall

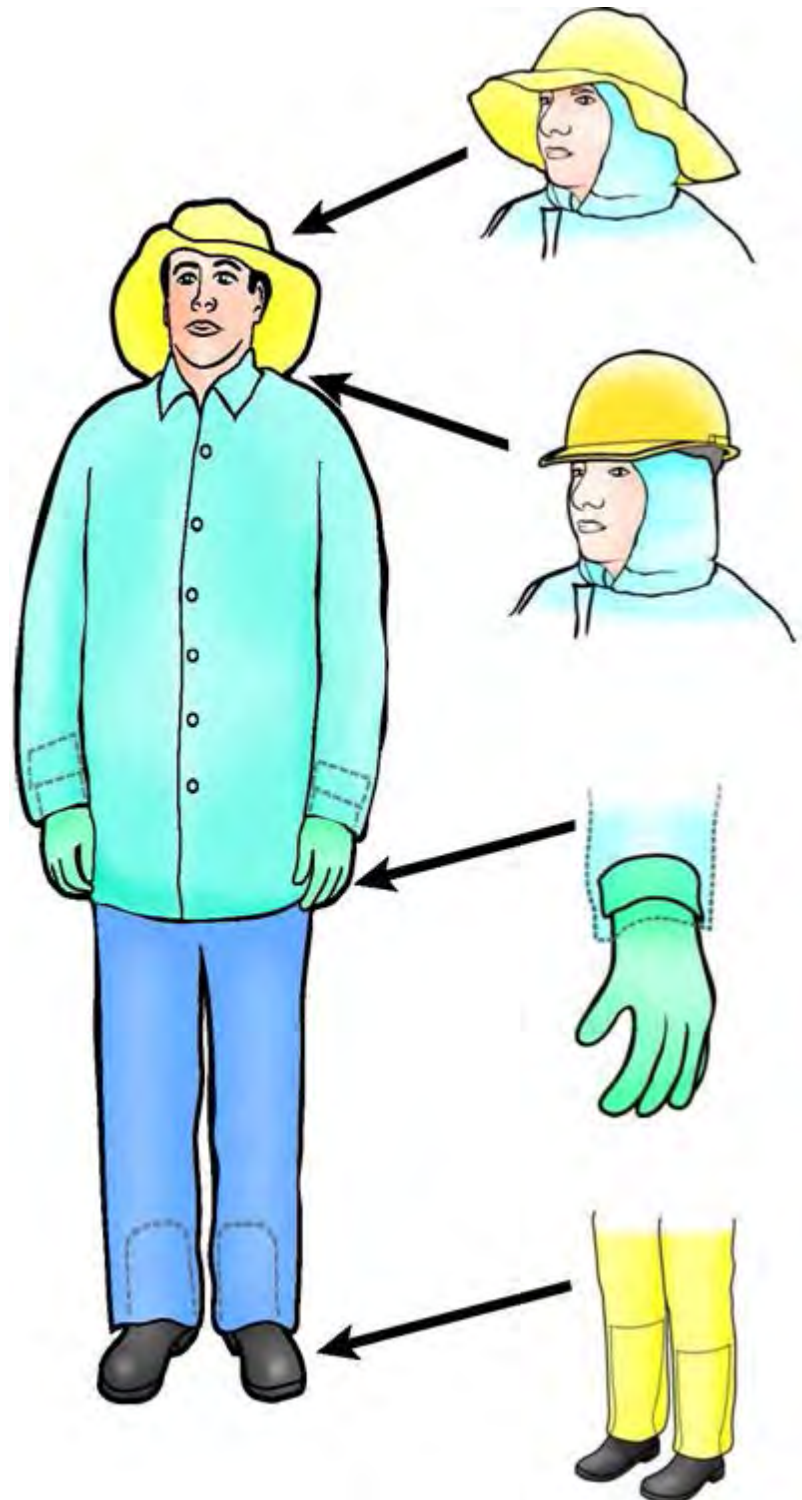
- do the buttons up to the top to protect your neck

chemical resistant gloves

- no holes or rips
- no lining
- tucked under your sleeve

chemical resistant boots

- tall and unlined
- put pant legs over your boots



What to Wear

Workers are hurt most often when they get pesticides on their skin.

Your skin will let the pesticides into your body more easily if:

- you have cuts or scratches
- it's a hot or humid day.



What to Wear

Workers are hurt most often when they get pesticides on their skin.

Never wipe your face, mouth
or eyes with a glove or a
sleeve.

This can be dangerous because
you might rub pesticides:

- onto your skin
- into your eyes.



What to Wear

Don't get pesticides inside your gloves.

If you are spraying above your shoulder:

- wear your sleeves inside your gloves
- fold the top of your gloves to make a cuff.



If you are spraying both above and below your shoulder:

- use duct tape to attach the tops of your gloves to your sleeves.



What to Wear

For some pesticides you may also need to wear:

goggles

- to protect your eyes



face shield

- to protect your face



What to Wear

Ask your boss what extra equipment you need to wear.

For some pesticides you may also need to wear:

chemical resistant apron

- to protect the front of your body



respirator • to protect your lungs.



Ask your boss what extra equipment you need to wear.

What to Wear

Check the respirator fit each time you use it.

If any air can get in or out around the edges of the respirator, the respirator does not fit you.

Tell your boss right away.



What to Wear

Check your respirator filters.

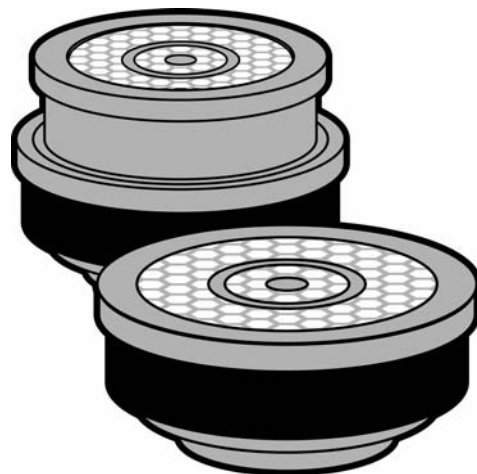
Change the prefilter:

- when it is getting hard to breathe.



Change the cartridge:

- When you can smell or taste pesticide
- When you feel your nose or throat burning.



What to Wear

Remember ...

Check your safety
equipment before you
use it and while you are
using it.

If you find a problem,
tell your boss right
away.

What to Wear

If your spray tractor does not have a cab, you may need to wear your respirator while you spray.



Your boss will tell you if you need to wear your respirator.

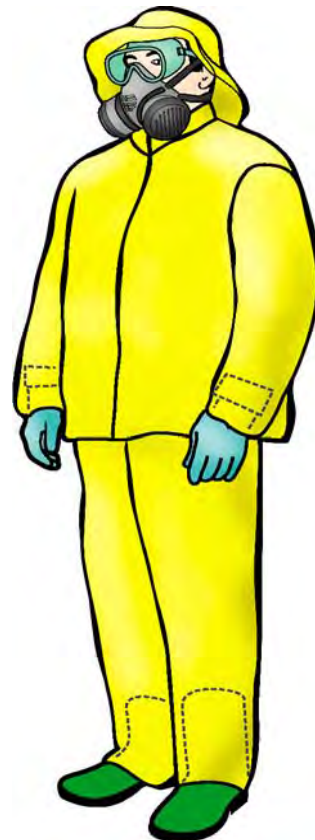
What to Wear

You need to wear special equipment when you spray with an air blast sprayer.



You need to wear:

- a waterproof rainsuit with a hood
- goggles
- a respirator
- chemical resistant gloves
- chemical resistant boots.



What to Wear

You may need to wear special equipment when you spray in a greenhouse or mushroom house.



You may need to wear:

- a waterproof rain suit with a hood
- a cartridge respirator or a helmet respirator with air from a tank you carry (supplied air)
- chemical resistant gloves
- chemical resistant boots



Your boss will tell you the extra equipment you need to wear.

Handling Pesticides

1. Getting Pesticides from Storage

- Put chemical resistant gloves on.

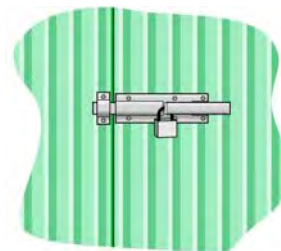


- Look at the jugs and bags to make sure they aren't leaking.



- Tell your boss right away if a jug or bag is leaking.

- Lock the storage when you leave.



Handling Pesticides

2. Carrying Pesticides

- Keep them away from people. Always put them in the back of the truck or in the trunk of the car.
- Keep the jugs or bags tied down or held in a special box so they can't fall over or bounce around while you drive.



Handling Pesticides

Remember ...

Make sure you are wearing all your safety equipment before you open, mix, use and clean-up pesticides.

Handling Pesticides

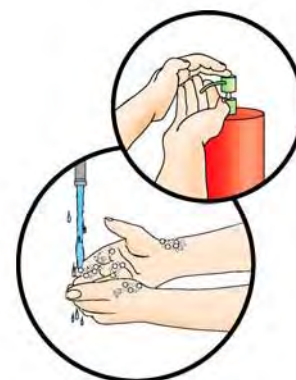
3. Opening, Measuring and Mixing Pesticides

- You need to be very careful when you open, measure and mix pesticides.

The pesticide in the container is very strong because it has not been mixed with water yet.



Make sure that you have lots of clean water and soap close to you, in case you spill pesticide on yourself.



Your boss will tell you how much pesticide to mix up.

Your boss will also tell you what clothing and safety equipment you need to wear.

Handling Pesticides

3. Opening, Measuring and Mixing Pesticides

When you open pesticide containers:

- keep your face and eyes above the container
- always open on a flat surface
- use a knife or scissors to open the bag or jug.



Never open a pesticide container with your teeth.

Never use that knife or that pair of scissors for anything else because it could have pesticides on it.

Never use your own pocket knife to do this job. You could get pesticides on it.

Never rip open a paper or cardboard container because pesticide dust can get into your eyes, mouth, nose, lungs and onto your skin.



Handling Pesticides

3. Opening, Measuring and Mixing Pesticides

When you measure pesticides:

- keep your face and eyes above the container
- always put your measuring cup or weighing scale on a flat surface
- only use measuring containers and mixing buckets that are for pesticides.



When you finish measuring:

- rinse your measuring container with water
- pour the rinse water into the spray tank
- do this rinsing three times.

Never use a pesticide measuring cup or mixing bucket for anything else.

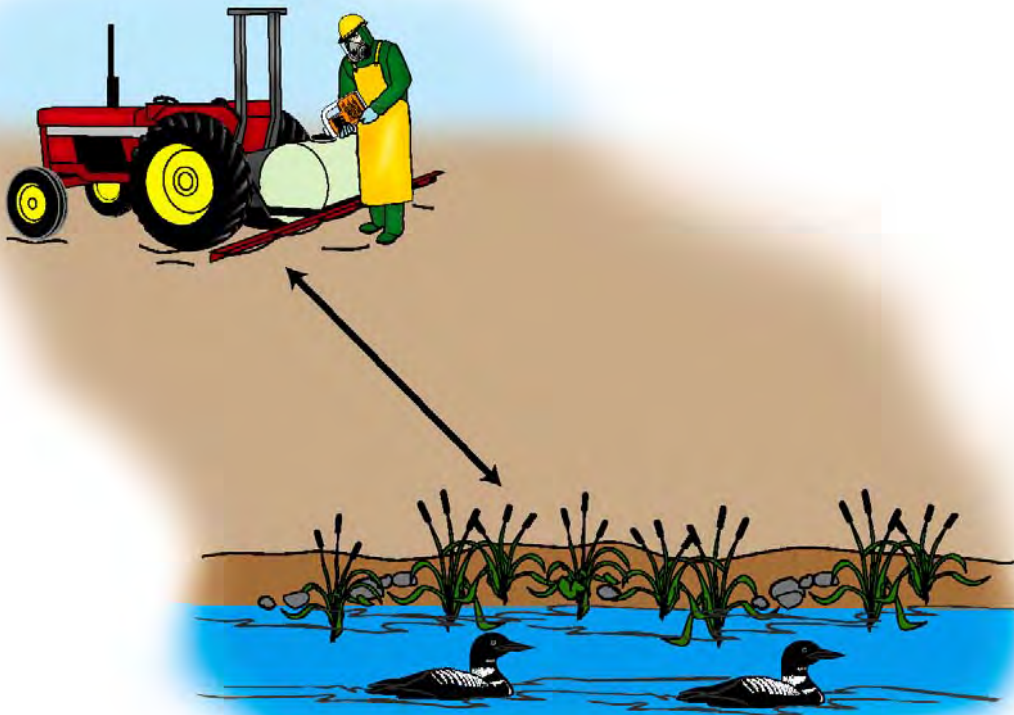
Never use your own drinking cup or food containers to measure pesticides. Even if you wash your cup or food containers carefully there could still be enough pesticide in them to make you and your family very sick.



Handling Pesticides

4. Mixing Pesticides in the Spray Tank

Be sure that the mixing place is away from ponds, streams, ditches and wells.



Handling Pesticides

4. Mixing Pesticides in the Spray Tank

When you pour pesticide into the spray tank:

- keep your face and eyes above the container
- pour carefully so that you don't get splashed, or spill pesticide.



Handling Pesticides

5. Pesticide Containers

Triple Rinse Empty Pesticide Containers

When you empty a jug or a bag with plastic lining, you need to rinse it 3 (three) times **right away**:

- fill the container about 1/4 full with water
- close the container, then shake or roll it so that you rinse all the sides
- pour the rinse water into the spray tank
- do this rinsing 3(three) times.



Handling Pesticides

5. Pesticide Containers

As soon as you finish mixing pesticides:

- put all the pesticide containers, both empty and full ones, in a safe area where people and animals can't reach them
- put your measuring and mixing containers in a safe place also.



Your boss will tell you where you should put the containers.

Handling Pesticides

5. Pesticide Containers

- Never take empty pesticide containers home from work.

Even if you can't see any pesticide left inside them, there is enough there to make you and your family sick.



Handling Pesticides

6. Spraying Pesticides

Check the field (or greenhouse or mushroom house) before you start to spray.

The spray you are using could harm people or animals.

- Make sure that there are no people or animals nearby.

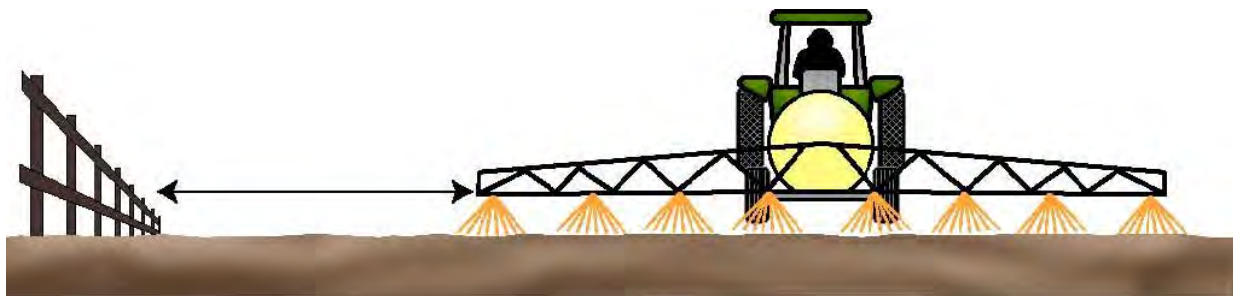


Handling Pesticides

6. Spraying Pesticides

The spray you are using may harm people or a neighbour's crop.

- Your boss will tell you if you need to leave a space between the field you are spraying and:
 - buildings
 - roads
 - a neighbour's field.

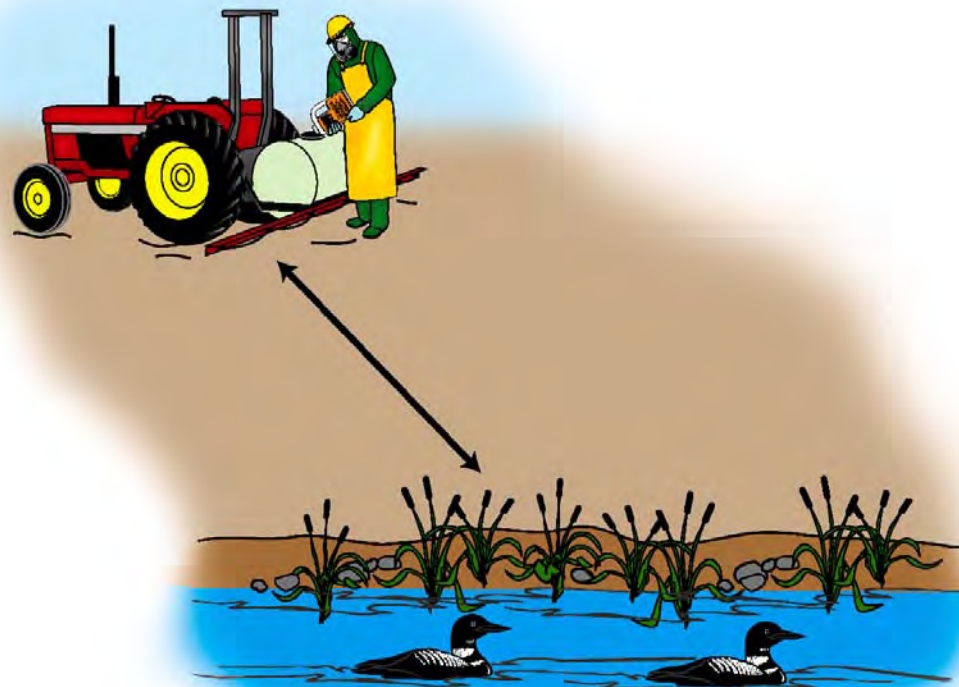


Handling Pesticides

6. Spraying Pesticides

Check for ponds, streams, ditches, or wells in the spray area.

- Your boss will tell you how close you can spray to the water.



Handling Pesticides

6. Spraying Pesticides

Check the weather.

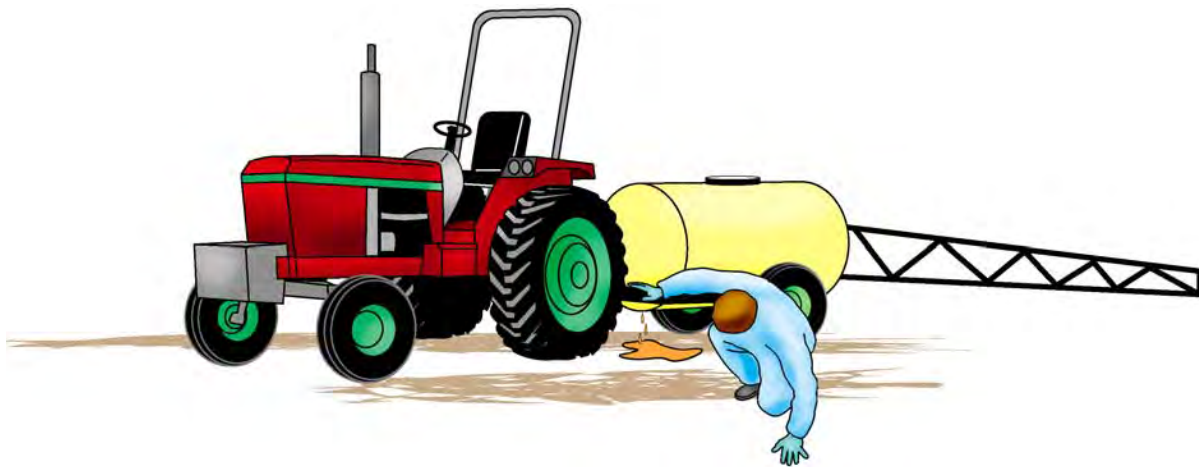
- If it might rain, **DON'T** start to spray. Tell your boss right away.
- If it gets windy while you are spraying, **STOP** right away and tell your boss.
- If it starts to rain while you are spraying, **STOP** right away and tell your boss.



Handling Pesticides

6. Spraying Pesticides

Check your sprayer carefully before you start. Make sure that there are no leaks and that everything is working.



Handling Pesticides

6. Spraying Pesticides

Watch the nozzles when you are spraying.

- Make sure the pesticide is coming out from each nozzle evenly.
- If you see a problem with a nozzle, **STOP** the sprayer.



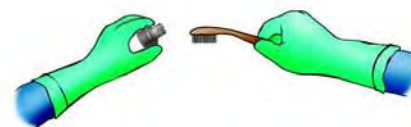
Handling Pesticides

6. Spraying Pesticides

- Put on chemical resistant gloves, an apron, and goggles, if you need to unplug a nozzle.



- Use a small brush to clean the spray nozzle.



- **Never** put pieces of spray equipment in your mouth.



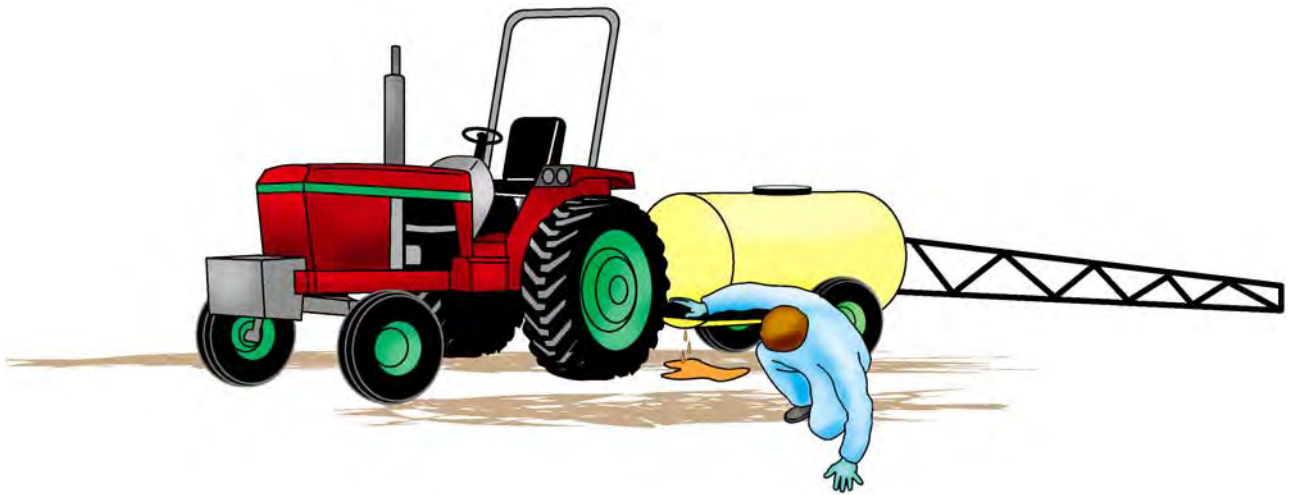
Handling Pesticides

6. Spraying Pesticides

Watch for leaks and other problems.

If anything is wrong with your sprayer:

- **STOP** the sprayer
- tell your boss right away.

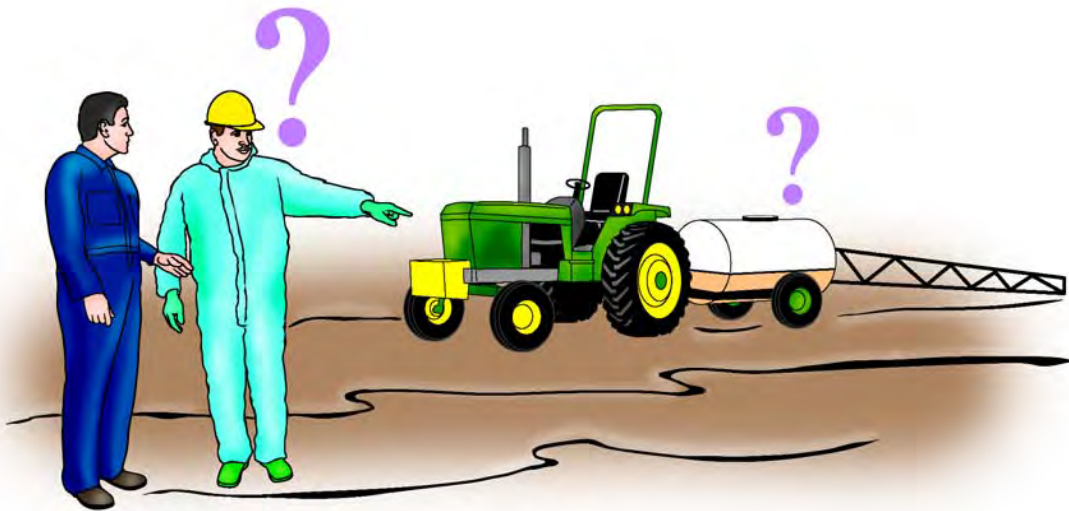


Handling Pesticides

6. Spraying Pesticides

If you have pesticide left in the sprayer when you're finished:

- ask your boss what to do with the left over pesticide
- **NEVER dump** left over pesticide anywhere.

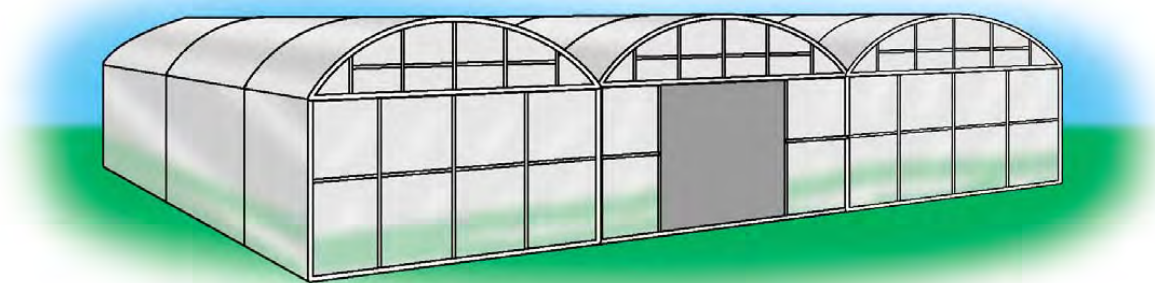


Handling Pesticides

7. Spraying Pesticides in a Greenhouse or Mushroom House

You need to be extra careful when you spray in a greenhouse or mushroom house because it's closed in.

If you start to feel dizzy or sick, get out right away and call for help.



Handling Pesticides

7. Spraying Pesticides in a Greenhouse or Mushroom House

You need to be extra careful when you spray in a greenhouse or mushroom house because it's closed in.

If you see someone else inside a greenhouse who is sick:

- put on a respirator
- go in and get that person out
- call for help.



Handling Pesticides

7. Spraying Pesticides in a Greenhouse or Mushroom House

You need to be extra careful when you spray in a greenhouse or mushroom house, because it's closed in.

If you see someone else inside a greenhouse who is sick...

but

you don't have a respirator:

- don't go inside
- call for help right away.



Handling Pesticides

Know What to do if a Pesticide Spills

If you see a small pesticide spill:

- protect yourself first
- put on your safety equipment
- tell your boss right away.



Know What to do if a Pesticide Spills

If you see a big pesticide spill:

- protect yourself first
- put on your safety equipment
- send someone else for help
- warn other people to keep away from the spill.



Know What to do if a Pesticide Spills

Stop the spill.

Make sure you are wearing your safety equipment.

- If a container is leaking, put the pesticide into another container.
- If a container has fallen over, stand it up again and put the lid back on.
- If a sprayer is leaking, shut it off.



Know What to do if a Pesticide Spills

Stop the spill from spreading.

- Use soil or sand to make a wall around the edge of the spill.



- If the spill is near a pond, stream, well or ditch, make a wall with soil between the spill and water right away.



Clean up the Spill

Your boss will tell you how to clean up the spill.

Cleaning up at Work

1. Cleaning the Sprayer

Ask your boss how to clean your sprayer.

Remember...

wear your safety equipment when you clean the sprayer.

Remember...

clean the sprayer away from ponds, streams, ditches and wells.



Cleaning up at Work

2. Cleaning Your Safety Equipment

You need to be careful because your safety equipment will have pesticide on it.

- Don't let other people touch your clothes or equipment that might have pesticide on them.
- Anyone touching those clothes must wear safety gloves.

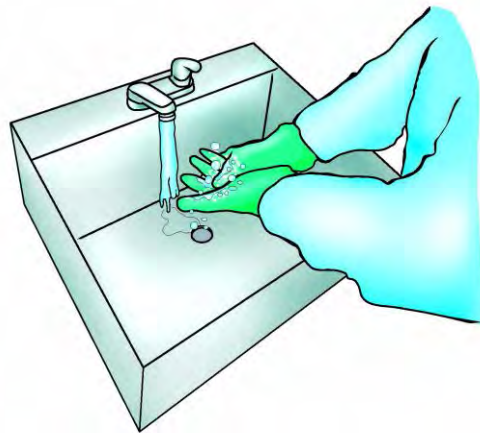


Cleaning up at Work

2. Cleaning Your Safety Equipment

Gloves First

- Wash the outside of your gloves with soap and water while you still have them on.



- **Keep your gloves on** while you take off your other safety equipment.



Cleaning up at Work

2. Cleaning Your Safety Equipment

Goggles, hat, boots and water repellent clothing

- Take them off.
- Wash them in warm soapy water.
- Rinse them.
- Hang them to dry.

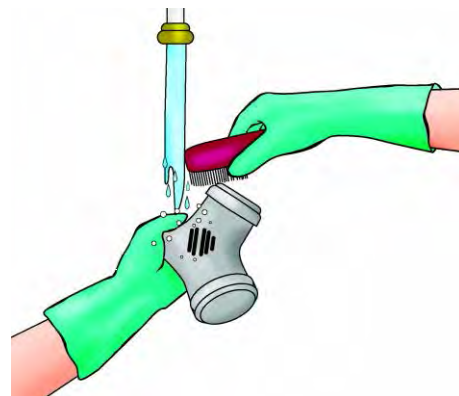
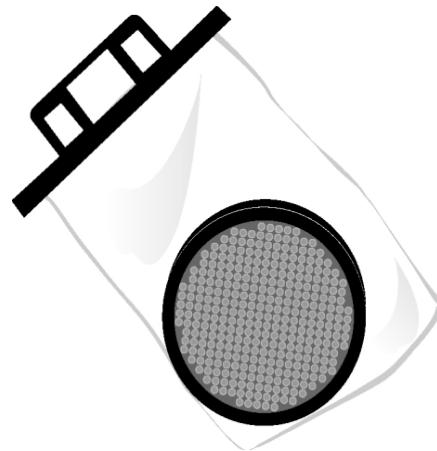


Cleaning up at Work

2. Cleaning Your Safety Equipment

Respirator

- Take your respirator off.
- Put cartridges and prefilters into clean plastic bags.
- Wash the facepiece in warm soapy water.
- Rinse it.
- Hang it to dry.



Cleaning up at Work

2. Cleaning Your Safety Equipment

Coveralls

- Take your coveralls off (with your gloves still on).
- Put them into an empty plastic bag.
- Keep them out of reach of children and animals until you have time to wash them.

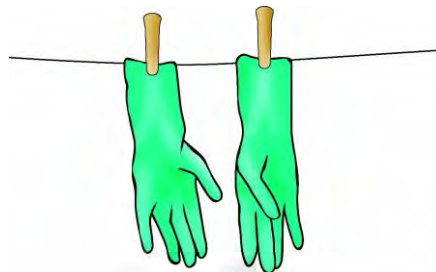
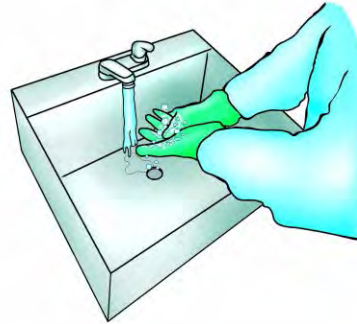


Cleaning up at Work

2. Cleaning Your Safety Equipment

Gloves Last

- Wash your gloves again in warm, soapy water.
- Take your gloves off.
- Fill them with water to check them for leaks.
- If they have leaks, tell your boss right away.
- If they do not have leaks, hang them up to dry.



Cleaning up at Work

Remember ...

Put everything away.

Ask your boss where to
put all of your clean
safety equipment.

Cleaning up at Home

After work each day:

- take off your work clothes
- shower
- clean under your nails
- put on clean clothes.



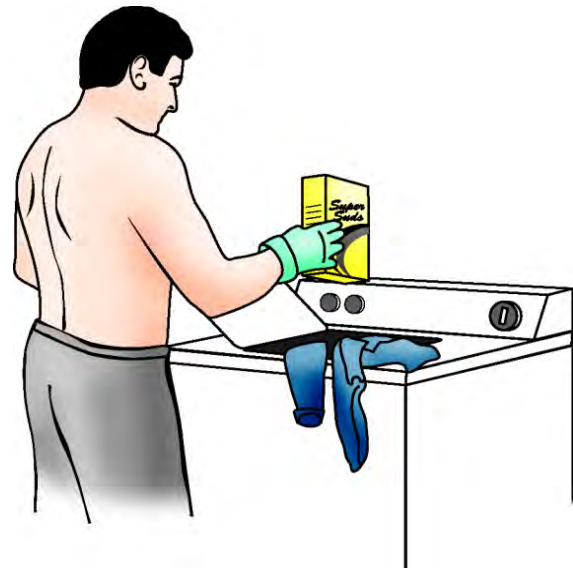
Keep your dirty work clothes away from other laundry. Even if you wore coveralls, your pants and shirt can have pesticide on them.



Cleaning up at Home

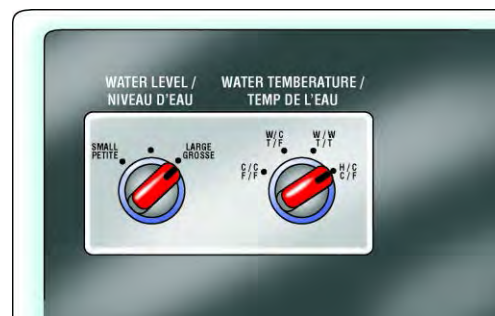
Washing Your Work Clothes

- Put on safety gloves before you touch the dirty clothes.
- Wash your work clothes by themselves, not with your family's clothes.
- Wash only a few things at a time.



This makes sure you have lots of soap and water for your work clothes

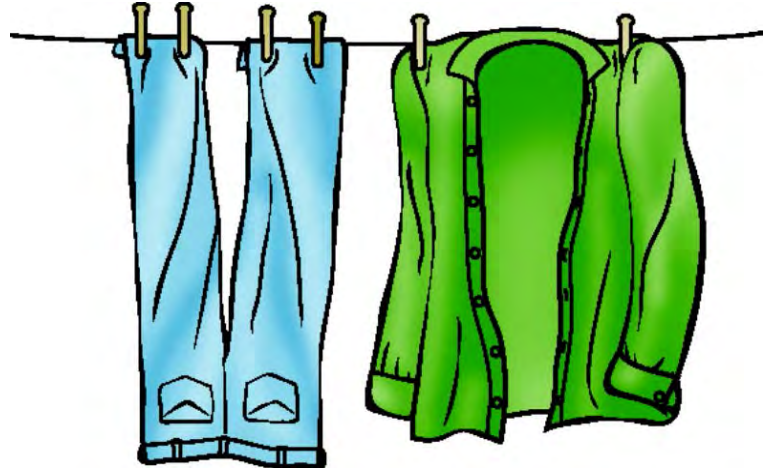
- Use hot water.
- Use the highest water level.



Cleaning up at Home

Washing Your Work Clothes

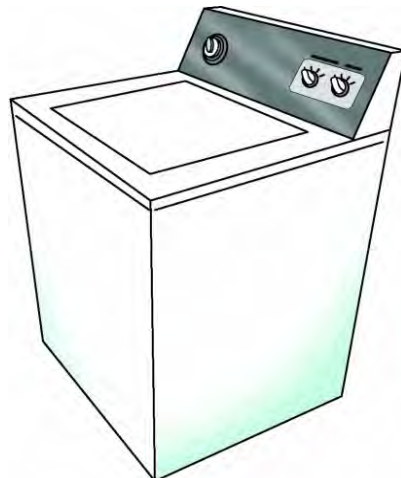
- Wash everything two times.
- Hang the clothes outside to dry instead of putting them in the dryer.



Remember...

Right after you have washed your work clothes, clean the washing machine.

- Fill the machine with soap and water.
- Don't add any clothes.
- Let it run.



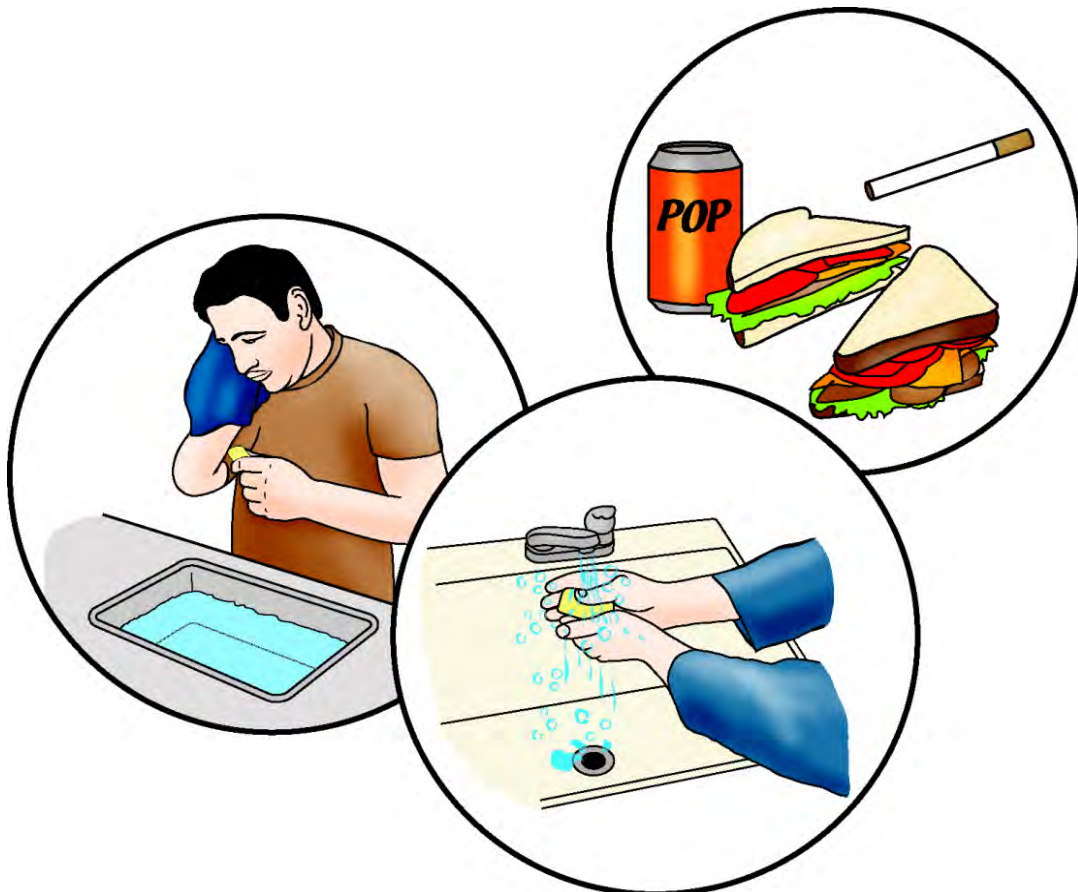
Cleaning up at Home

Safety Tips for Taking Breaks

Even though you wear safety equipment, you might have some pesticide on your hands and face.

Always wash your hands and face before you:

- eat
- drink
- smoke
- chew gum or tobacco



Safety Tips for Taking Breaks

Even though you wear safety equipment, you might have some pesticide on your hands and face.

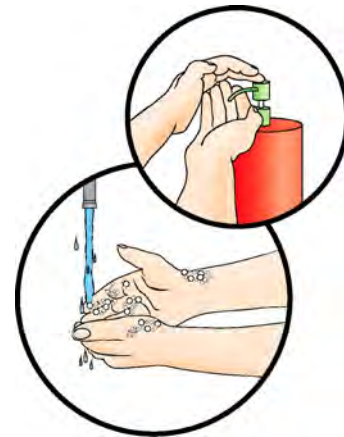
Always wash your hands before you:

- go to the bathroom (whether inside or outside)

The skin in your groin area takes in pesticides very quickly.

You can get skin burns from the pesticides on your hands.

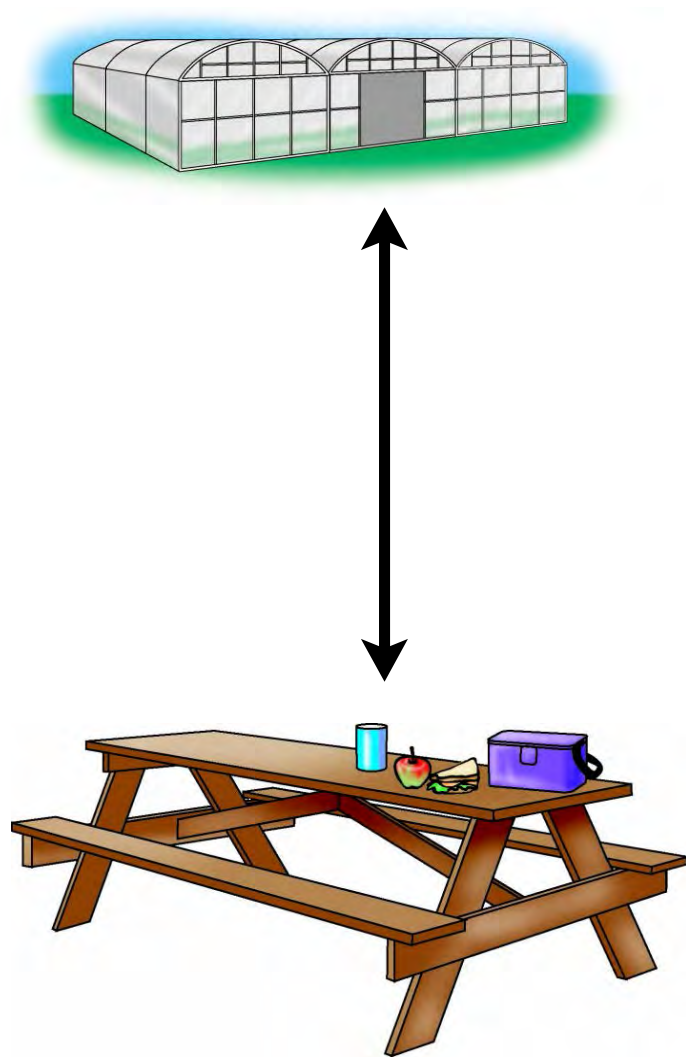
You can get sick later from the pesticides on your hands.



Safety Tips for Taking Breaks

Pesticide can get into your food, drinks and tobacco.

- Keep them away from your work area.
- Keep them away from where pesticides are stored.



Safety Tips for Taking Breaks

First Aid

Sometimes accidents can happen.

Know the signs. If you get sick from pesticides, you may:



- feel tired



- feel dizzy



- have a headache



- have trouble seeing
(blurred vision)

If any of these things happen to you when you are working with pesticides, **STOP** what you are doing right away, and tell your boss.

First Aid

Sometimes accidents can happen.

Know the signs. If you get sick from pesticides, you may:



- have trouble breathing



- have pains in your chest



- throw up



- have stomach cramps or diarrhea

If any of these things happen to you when you are working with pesticides, **STOP** what you are doing right away, and tell your boss.

First Aid

Sometimes accidents can happen.

Know the signs. If you get sick from pesticides, you may:



- have a rash on your skin or feel like your skin is burning

- have burning or itching eyes, or feel like you have sand in your eyes



- act or talk like you have been drinking alcohol



- drool

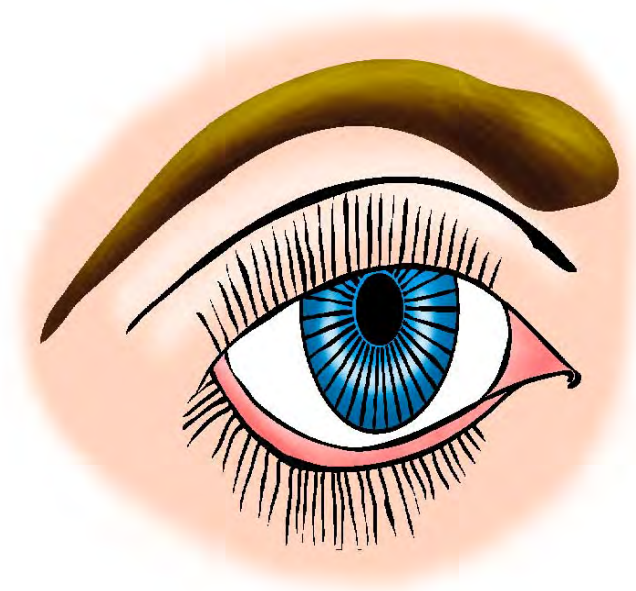
If any of these things happen to you when you are working with pesticides, **STOP** what you are doing right away, and tell your boss.

First Aid

Sometimes accidents can happen.

Know the signs. If you get sick from pesticides, you may:

- have very small pupils
(the black part in the middle of your eyes).



If any of these things happen to you when you are working with pesticides, **STOP** what you are doing right away, and tell your boss.

First Aid

If you are too sick to go to your boss:

- call to the nearest person for help
- tell that person to go and get the boss right away.



First Aid

Even if you don't feel sick, you should always tell your boss right away if you:

- spill pesticides on yourself when you are mixing



- get pesticide in your eyes



- breathe in pesticide.



First Aid

Sometimes a pesticide may not make you feel sick right away, but it could make you sick later in the day.



First Aid

Know what to do if you get pesticide in your eyes.

Pesticides can hurt your eyes very quickly and make you blind.

If you get pesticide in your eyes:

- get to water right away
- hold your eyelids open
- rinse your eyes with water for at least 15 minutes
- tell your boss right away.



First Aid

Know what to do if you get pesticide on your skin.

If you get pesticide on your skin, and your skin does not burn:

- remove any clothing with pesticide on it



- wash your skin with lots of soap and water right away

The longer that the pesticide stays on your skin, the more likely that it will make you sick.

- tell your boss right away.



First Aid

Know what to do if a pesticide burns your skin.

If you get pesticides on your skin, and your skin is burning:

- leave your clothing on at first.

If it is a powder pesticide:

- brush the pesticide off first
- rinse with lots of water.



If it is a liquid pesticide:

- rinse with lots of cool water right away.



First Aid

Know what to do if a pesticide burns your skin.

Keep pouring water on the burned area while you take your clothes off.

If your clothes are stuck, DON'T pull the cloth away from the burn.

If your clothes come off easily, cover the burn lightly with a clean cloth.

Tell your boss right away.



First Aid

Know what to do if a pesticide burns your skin.

If you are burned, DON'T:



- use soap



- touch the area that is burned



- break blisters



- put ointment or lotion on the burn

First Aid

Know what to do if you breathe in a pesticide.

If you breathe pesticide into your lungs:

- get to fresh air right away
- call for help so that someone can tell your boss right away

If you can't shout, try to get someone's attention any other way that you can.

- sit down and try to breathe normally.

Walking around can make it harder to breathe.

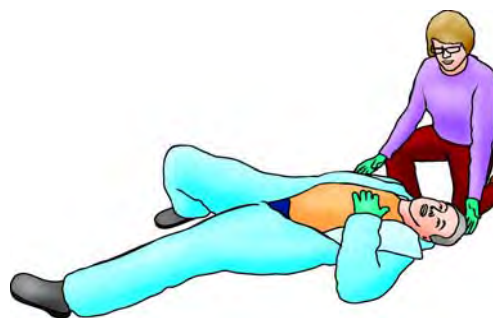


First Aid

Know what to do if someone inside a greenhouse or mushroom house is sick.

If you see someone inside a greenhouse or mushroom house who is sick:

- put on a respirator
- go in and get that person out
- call for help
- take their respirator off, if they have one on
- loosen their clothing.



If someone else has breathed in a pesticide, make sure that you don't breathe it in too.

First Aid

Know what to do if someone swallows a pesticide.

If someone swallows a pesticide:

- call for help right away
The person could die very quickly.
- don't try to make the person vomit
This could make the person sicker.
- tell your boss what happened
- give the pesticide jug or label to your boss
- your boss will phone a doctor at the Ontario Poison Centre right away.





Heat Stress

If it is a very hot day when you spray, you can also get sick from heat stress (sickness).

Heat sickness can look a lot like pesticide poisoning.

Heat sickness can be very serious.

You could die.

First Aid

Heat Stress

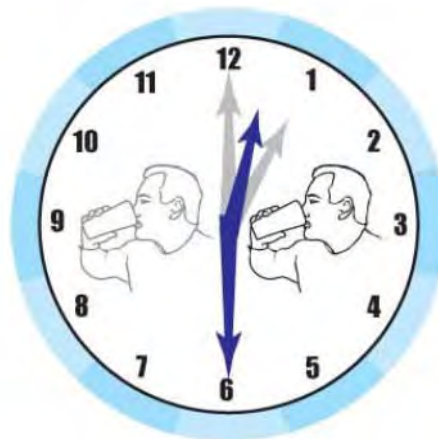
When you work on hot days:

- drink lots of water before work, during work breaks and after work



- drink at least one cup of water every half hour.

Drink more if you are sweating a lot.



First Aid

Heat Stress on Hot Days

Safety equipment can make you feel hotter.

- Try to work with pesticides when it's cooler - early in the morning, or in the evening.



- Take breaks in the shade if you can, to help your body cool down.



First Aid

Heat Stress

If you are working on a hot day and you feel sick:

- STOP what you are doing
- tell your boss right away.



First Aid

Heat Stress

If you think that someone else you work with is sick from the heat, send someone to tell your boss right away.



First Aid

Heat Stress

Try to cool the sick person down:

- take off their outer clothing
- pour water on them
- fan them
- put wet cloths or towels around them loosely
- keep pouring water on them and fanning them on the way to the doctor.



First Aid

Work Safely With Pesticides

Know how to protect yourself and others from pesticides.

You shouldn't get sick from pesticides, if you handle them carefully, and you wear the right clothing and safety equipment.



Work Safely With Pesticides

When you work with pesticides,

ASK your boss, BEFORE you start:

- what clothing and safety equipment you need to wear
- what the symbols on the pesticide label mean
- what to do if a pesticide spills
- where your boss wants you to spray
- how close you can spray to buildings, roads, neighbour's fields and water
- what to do if you have pesticide left in the sprayer.

Make sure that you know where your boss will be, or how you can talk to your boss by phone or radio.

Work Safely With Pesticides

When you work with pesticides,

Always check BEFORE you start:

- that your safety equipment fits properly and works properly
- that the sprayer works properly.

STOP, and TELL your boss right away:

- if your safety equipment has leaks, doesn't work or doesn't fit you
- if you spill pesticides
- if pesticides get on your skin, in your eyes, in your mouth, or you breathe them in
- if you feel sick
- if it starts to get windy or it rains when you are spraying outside
- if your sprayer leaks or isn't working properly.

Work Safely With Pesticides

Remember ...

You can be safe when
you work with
pesticides, if you
follow these rules.