

Safe Cleanup After Pesticide Use

Editor's note: Our Tailgate Training Tip Sheets are [available in Spanish at www.gemplers.com](http://www.gemplers.com).

KEY POINTS:

- Pesticide residues can remain on skin, clothing and equipment after a task is completed.
- Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when cleaning pesticide-contaminated clothing or equipment.
- Thoroughly clean yourself after pesticide use.

Note to trainer: Follow this script or use it to help guide you through a 10- to 15-minute training session for your ag/hort workers. You may photocopy this sheet for your employees' personal use. However, it may not be published or sold.

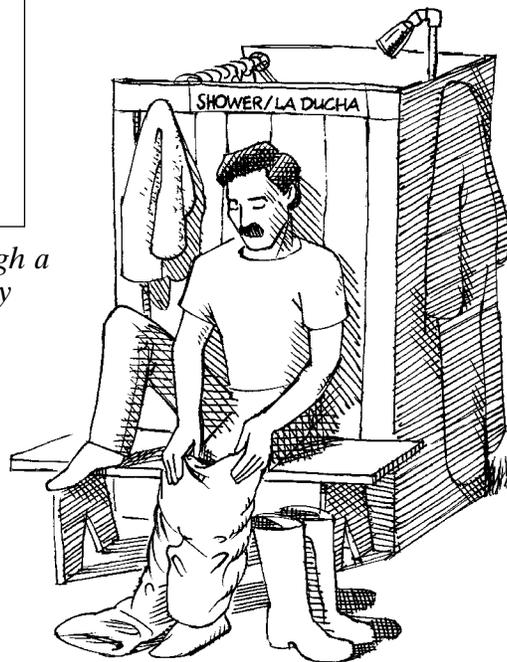
Pesticides can be harmful

- Pesticides are an effective way to kill pests on plants and crops.
- But exposure to pesticides can also harm you or your family members.
- Pesticide residues can remain on skin, clothing and equipment long after a task is completed.
- This may result in:
 - exposure to you or family members
 - clogging, corrosion or other damage to equipment
 - harm to the environment
- That's why it's important to thoroughly clean up after each pesticide use.

When you take a break

Here are some steps to take each time you take a break from working with pesticides:

1. Don't rub your eyes or touch your face or bare skin with pesticide-contaminated [gloves](#) or clothing.
2. Wash the outside of your [gloves](#) with soap and water before you take them off.
3. Rinse your shoes or [boots](#) with [soap](#) and water.
4. Avoid touching the outside of your protective clothing with your bare hands.
5. Wash your hands and face with [soap](#) and water before you eat, drink, smoke, chew gum, use the toilet or put on makeup.
6. Be careful where you walk or sit, because pesticide residues on your shoes or clothing can rub off.
7. Don't use the same cleanup tools you use to wash off pesticides for anything else.



Wash the outside of your gloves with soap and water.

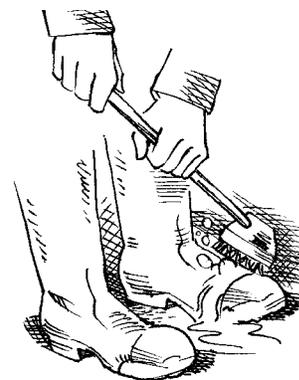
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See our [full line of safety supplies](#), including respirators, eye and ear protection, coveralls, first aid and more.

Safe Cleanup After Pesticide Use

When you finish work

1. Wash the outside of your gloves and boots with soap and water.
2. Take off your other [protective clothing](#) while your gloves are still on. Inspect it for leaks or other damage. Then remove your shoes or boots.
3. Place your pesticide-contaminated clothing in a plastic bag or container, separate from your personal clothing.
4. Re-wash your gloves. Take them off, inspecting them for leaks or tears. Then place them in the appropriate container.
5. Wash your face, hands, neck and forearms with soap and water.
6. Take a complete shower as soon as possible. Use a lot of soap, and be sure to wash your hair.



More cleanup tips

- Always wear [waterproof gloves](#) when washing protective clothing.
- Use mild soap or [detergent](#) and very warm water when washing gloves, boots and other protective clothing by hand. Wash both the inside and the outside.
- Keep pesticide-contaminated clothing separate from your other clothing and from the family wash.
- It's best to wash pesticide-contaminated clothing in a separate washing machine dedicated for that use. See your supervisor for specific instructions.



Keep pesticide-contaminated clothing separate from other clothing.

Cleaning equipment

- Mixing, loading and application equipment should be cleaned immediately after pesticide use.
- If you are uncertain how to do this, see your supervisor.
- When cleaning equipment:
 - Wear the [personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#) specified on the pesticide label for handlers. Also wear a [chemical-resistant apron](#).
 - Don't repeatedly clean equipment in the same spot unless you use a containment pad.



Are there any questions?

Note to trainer: Take time to answer trainees' questions. Then review the **Pesticide Cleanup Do's and Don'ts**.

PESTICIDE CLEANUP DO'S AND DON'TS

DO:

- Wear the appropriate PPE when cleaning pesticide-contaminated clothing or application equipment.
- Discard pesticide-saturated clothing.
- Put on clean clothes after taking a shower at the end of the workday.

DON'T

- Ever wear pesticide-contaminated clothing home.
- Store excess pesticides in mixing, loading or application equipment for more than a short time.
- Put clothing that has been exposed to pesticides in the dryer. Line dry it instead.

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