What to wear when handling pesticides

Personal protective equipment (PPE) includes gear and clothes you wear to protect your body from contact with pesticides. Chemical-resistant PPE does not allow measurable movement of pesticide through the item during use. Garden gloves are not chemical resistant, but rubber gloves are resistant to many pesticides.

Why wear PPE?

Pesticides can enter your body by being absorbed by your:

- Skin
- Eyes
- Lungs

PPE reduces such absorption by providing a barrier between your body and the pesticide.

When to wear PPE

Wear proper PPE whenever you handle pesticides or when touching freshly treated surfaces.

Handling activities include: handling containers, mixing and applying pesticides, cleaning application equipment, and disposing of pesticide waste.

Put on all PPE BEFORE opening the pesticide container.

What to Wear When Handling Pesticides

Read the pesticide label for specific clothing and equipment requirements.

Care of PPE

- Wash the outside of gloves & boots with soap and water BEFORE removing them.
- Hand wash protective eyewear with soap and water and dry thoroughly.
- Check gloves regularly for holes by filling them with water and squeezing.
- Place reusable PPE in a labeled plastic bag. Do not use for any other purpose.

Laundering PPE

- Wear rubber gloves when handling pesticide-contaminated clothing.
- Discard any clothing contaminated with concentrated (undiluted) pesticide, research shows that such clothes remain contaminated even after repeated washings.
- Launder PPE separate from the family laundry.
- Pre-wash clothing before washing and wash in hot water with a heavy-duty detergent.
- Line dry if possible.

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