

# MAFES Dawg Tracks



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*Safety Tips: Protective Clothing for Pesticide Use*



I believe that the majority of our employees know and realize the importance of wearing the correct personal protective equipment when we are distributing pesticides. Knowing and realizing is one issue, but applying it to actual use is another issue. We all should never fail to read the MSDS or the product container label to know what PPE to use.

Pesticide absorption through the skin is the most common cause of poisoning during mixing, loading, application, and equipment maintenance. You can keep skin exposure to a minimum by wearing coveralls over your work clothes. The coveralls should cover your body minus your feet, hands, and head. A long rubber apron will help to protect you from splashes, mists, sprays, spills.

## PROTECTIVE CLOTHING IS IMPORTANT- WHY?

- Personal protective equipment (PPE) is designed to keep toxic substances such as pesticides from getting on or in your body.
- The law requires you to wear the proper PPE which is specified on the product label container or the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).
- The PPE will help to protect different parts of your body. Some examples of PPE are:

Coveralls	aprons
Gloves	rubber boots
Hoods	goggles
Respirators	safety glasses
- Always check the label of the pesticide that you are using to find out what protective clothing that you should wear.

## WEARING PROTECTIVE CLOTHING-

- ✓ It is most important to take good care of your protective clothing-it is the barrier to protect your body from the pesticide residue.
- ✓ You should make it a habit to check your clothing, coveralls, boots, gloves, and glasses or goggles to make sure that they are in acceptable use condition with no holes scrapes, tears, broken lens or ear pieces etc.
- ✓ Be sure to wear clean protective clothing each day.

## DO:

- Check your PPE for damages before you start to spray-replace as needed before you begin to spray.
- Wash the outside of your gloves and footwear with soap and water.
- Wear clean protective clothing each day.

If you discover a tear, rip, or hole in your clothing, broken lenses in your glasses or goggles or any damaged parts, holes in your boots or shoes, be sure to stop and report it to your supervisor. Seek out a new part for the damaged part and/or the clothing if you have been exposed to the pesticide to your naked skin. Go immediately to take a shower with plenty of soap and water and get into new clothing.

## TAKING LUNCH OR REST BREAKS-

- Wash the outside of your gloves with soap and water before you remove them.
- Rinse your footwear, boots or shoes with soap and water.
- Wash your hands with soap and water before you eat, drink, smoke, or use the toilet.
- Don't touch the outside of your protective clothing with your bare hands.
- Be careful where you sit or stand-you may have pesticide residues on your body and when you sit or stand it can rub off.

## WHEN YOUR JOB IS FINISHED AND THE WORK IS DONE-

- Wash the outside of your boots or shoes and your gloves with soap and water.
- Start at the shoulders and roll your clothing down your body. Be sure not to touch the outside. The inside should be the only part showing when you get down to your ankles.
- Put your coveralls in a separate bag or container and separate from your regular clothing.
- Remove your shoes or boots and place them in a separate container.
- Rewash your gloves, take them off and place them in a separate container. Consult your supervisor as to where you should deposit these containers.
- Obviously, when you have finished with your clothing and footwear, wash your hand thoroughly with soap and water.
- Finally, you should take a shower, washing your body thoroughly, including your hair and put on clean clothes.

## DON'T'S:

- ✓ Store your PPE near pesticides or in a dirty location, like under a work bench.
- ✓ Re-use PPE that has been drenched with pesticides.
- ✓ Wipe your protective gloves, boots or shoes, on your clothing.

***SAFETY IS A SMALL INVESTMENT  
FOR A RICH FUTURE!!***

***"LET SAFETY LEAD THE WAY"***

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