

Tips for Laundering Pesticide-Contaminated Clothing

Prelaundering Information

Remove contaminated clothing **before** entering enclosed tractor cabs.

Remove contaminated clothing **outdoors** or in an entry. If a granular pesticide was used, shake clothing outdoors. **Empty pockets and cuffs.**

Save clothing worn while handling pesticides for that use only. Keep separate from other clothing **before, during, and after** laundering.

Wash contaminated clothing after **each** use. When applying pesticides daily, wash clothing **daily**.

Clean gloves, aprons, boots, rigid hats, respirators, and eyewear by scrubbing with detergent and warm water. Rinse thoroughly and hang in a clean area to dry.

Take these **precautions** when handling contaminated clothing:

- Ventilate area.
- Avoid inhaling steam from washer or dryer.
- Wash hands thoroughly.
- Consider wearing chemical-resistant gloves.
- Keep out of reach of children and pets.

Air

Hang garments outdoors to air.

Prerinse

Use one of three methods:

1. Hose off garments outdoors.
2. Rinse in separate tub or pail.
3. Rinse in automatic washer at full water level.

Pretreat (heavily soiled garments)

Use heavy-duty liquid detergent.

Washer Load

Wash garments separate from family wash.

Wash garments contaminated with the same pesticide together.

Never use the “sudsaver” feature on your machine when laundering pesticide-soiled clothes.

Load Size

Wash only a few garments at once.

Water Level

Use full water level.

Water Temperature

Use **hot** water, as hot as possible.

Wash Cycle

Use **regular** wash cycle, at least 12-minutes.

Laundry Detergent

Use a **heavy-duty** detergent.

Use amount recommended on package or more for heavy soil or hard water.

Remember to use high-efficiency (HE) detergents in HE and front-loading washers.

Rinse

Use a **full** warm rinse.

Rewash

Rewash contaminated garments **two or three times** before reuse for more complete pesticide removal.

Dry

Line drying is preferable, to avoid contaminating dryer.

Clean Washer

Run complete, but empty, cycle.

Use **hot water and detergent**.

Prepared by Charlotte Coffman, College of Human Ecology, Department of Fiber Science and Apparel Design, Cornell University

PESTICIDE EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Emergency responder information on pesticide spills and accidents...

CHEMTREC.....800-424-9300

For pesticide information...

National Pesticide Information Center800-858-7378

Poison Control Centers

Poison Control Centers nationwide800-222-1222

This publication is issued to further Cooperative Extension work mandated by acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914. It was produced with the cooperation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Universities of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, Cornell Cooperative Extension, New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Cooperative Extension in the New England states provides equal program and employment opportunities.

This information is presented with the understanding that no product discrimination is intended and no endorsement of any product mentioned or criticism of unnamed products is implied. The Universities make no warranty or guarantee of any kind, expressed or implied, concerning the use of the products or practices mentioned in this publication. **USER ASSUMES ALL RISKS FOR PERSONAL INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE.** While an attempt is made to provide complete and up-to-date information, pesticide labels may change after this guide is printed or this guide may contain errors. The pesticide label takes precedence over the information in this guide.



Produced by: Pesticide Management Education Program, Cornell University, Rice Hall, Ithaca, New York
14853-5601. Ph. 607-255-1866 Fax: 607-255-3075. Michael Helms, Managing Editor (mjh14@cornell.edu).