

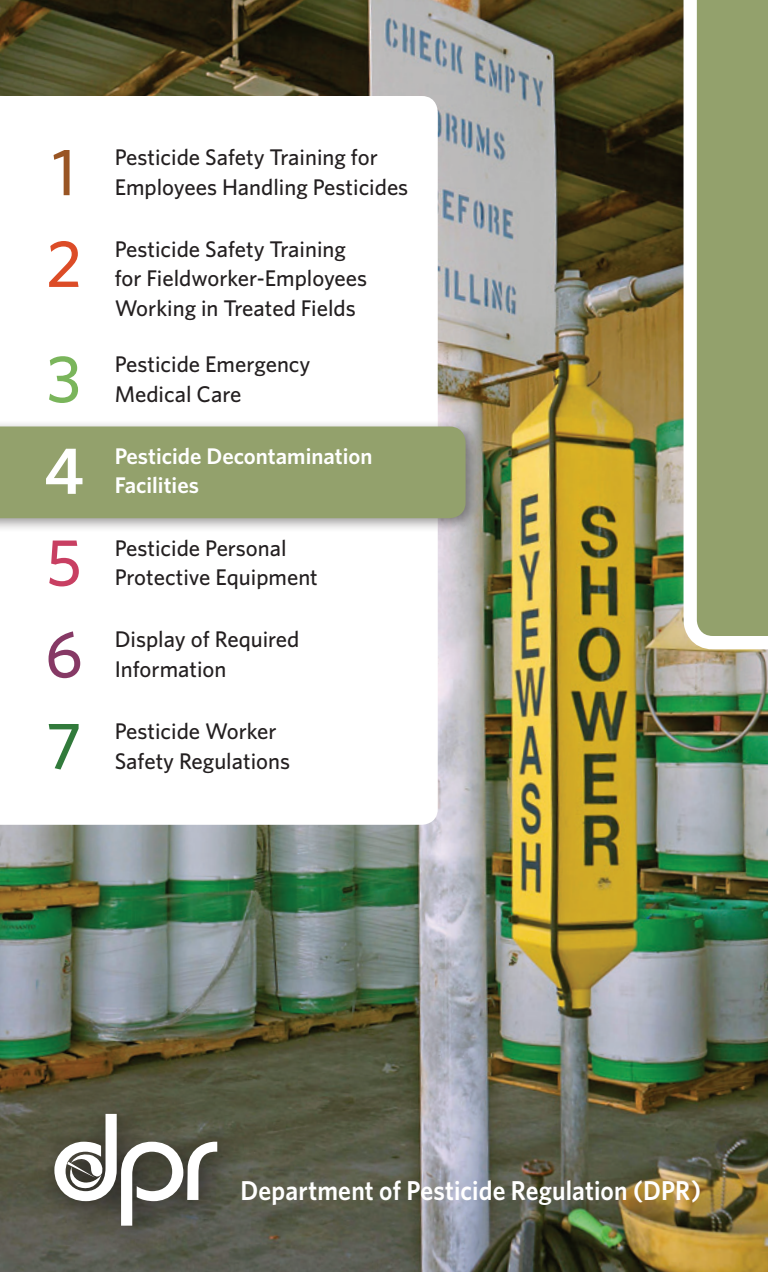
# Pesticide Decontamination Facilities

*EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES*



dpr

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE  
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1 Pesticide Safety Training for Employees Handling Pesticides

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Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)

*California's worker safety regulations specify safe work practices for employees who **handle** pesticides or work in **treated fields** (**fieldworkers, early-entry fieldworkers**). This booklet summarizes your responsibilities as an employer to assure that you provide adequate decontamination facilities for your employees.*

This booklet does not replace product label information, the Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS) leaflets, or the California Code of Regulations. It is a reference tool that summarizes specific regulatory requirements and responsibilities that you – the employer – must follow. You are encouraged to contact the agricultural commissioner's office in the county or counties where you operate for any additional requirements specific to your area.

See "**Definitions You Need to Know**" at the back of this booklet for explanations of highlighted words.

## What You Need to Do

**ASSURE** that decontamination facilities are provided to employees handling pesticides and to all fieldworkers engaged in activities involving contact with treated surfaces in treated fields.

**ASSURE** that decontamination facilities have:

- At the beginning of each workday, sufficient water, soap\*, and single-use towels\* for routine washing of the hands and face, and for emergency eye-flushing and, for handlers, sufficient to wash the entire body.
- ✓ At least three gallons of water per handler or early-entry fieldworker for employees handling pesticides used in the commercial or research production of an agricultural commodity.
- ✓ At least one gallon of water per fieldworker.
- One clean change of coveralls available for handlers at each decontamination site.

*\* Hand sanitizing gels and liquids, or wet towelettes are not considered soap or single-use towelettes for fieldworkers and employees handling pesticides for the commercial or research production of an agricultural plant commodity.*

**ASSURE** that:

- Water is of a quality and temperature that will not cause illness or injury when it contacts the skin or eyes, or if it is swallowed.
- Water is stored separately from water used for mixing pesticides—unless water-tank used for mixing is equipped with appropriate valves to prevent backflow of pesticides into the water.



**If the pesticide product labeling requires protective eyewear, assure that:**

- **At mix/load site**, there is immediate access to **at least one system** capable of delivering gently running water at a rate of at least 0.4 gallons per minute for 15 minutes or 6 gallons of water in containers suitable for providing a gentle eye-flush for about 15 minutes.
- **Each handler or early-entry fieldworker has one pint of water** for emergency eye-flushing immediately available.\*

\* *Immediately available means carried by the handler or on the vehicle or aircraft the handler is using.*

## ***Where Do You Need to Provide These Facilities?***

**ASSURE** that decontamination facilities for employees handling pesticides are:

- Located at the mixing/loading site and not more than 1/4 mile (or at the nearest point of vehicular access) from other handlers. For pilots, the decontamination facilities only need to be at the mixing/loading site.
- Not located in an area being treated or under a restricted entry interval (REI) unless:
  - ✓ The handlers for whom the site is provided are working in that area being treated or under an REI.
  - ✓ The **soap, towels**, and extra change of **coveralls** are in an enclosed container.
  - ✓ The **water** is running tap water or enclosed in a container.

**ASSURE** that decontamination facilities for handlers for uses OTHER than for the commercial or research production of an agricultural commodity are located within 100 feet of the mixing/loading site, if they are handling pesticides with the signal word “DANGER” or “WARNING” on the label.



**ASSURE** that decontamination facilities for fieldworkers are:

- Located not more than 1/4 mile from the fieldworkers (or the nearest point of vehicular access).
- Not in an area under an REI unless fieldworkers are performing **early-entry** activities.
- Not in an area under treatment.

### ***When Do You Need to Provide the Facilities?***

**Handlers** – for the duration of the handling task until the end of their exposure period.

**Fieldworkers** – when working at any time in a treated field.

**Early-entry fieldworkers** – when working in a treated field while any REI is in effect.





## *What If You Don't Comply?*

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and the County Agricultural Commissioners enforce California pesticide laws and regulations. It is your responsibility to assure that employees handle and use pesticides in accordance with the requirements of law, regulations, and pesticide product labeling requirements.

If you follow the worker safety requirements, you protect your employees' health, the environment, and yourself. If you do not comply, you violate federal and state law. DPR and the County Agricultural Commissioners have the authority to levy substantial penalties on persons who violate pesticide laws. Penalties range from \$50 for minor violations to \$5,000, and/or imprisonment for certain violations that have "created or reasonably could have created a hazard to human health or the environment." Also, persons who hold a license or certificate issued by DPR and who are found in violation can have their license or certificate suspended or revoked.



## **Definitions You Need to Know**

**Handle** – means mixing, loading, transferring, applying (including chemigation), or assisting with the application (including flagging) of pesticides (it does not include: local, state, or federal officials performing inspection, sampling, or other similar duties). Also, it includes:

- Incorporating (mechanically or by watering-in) pesticides in the soil.
- Maintaining, servicing, repairing, cleaning, or handling equipment used in these activities that may contain residues.
- Working with opened (including emptied but not rinsed) containers of pesticides.
- Adjusting, repairing, or removing treatment site coverings.
- Entry into a treated area during any application or before the inhalation exposure level listed on pesticide product labeling has been reached, or enclosed space ventilation criteria have been met.
- Performing the duties of a crop adviser, including field checking or scouting, making observations of the well-being of plants, or taking samples during an application or during any restricted entry interval listed on pesticide product labeling.

**Treated Field** – means a field that has been treated with a pesticide or had a restricted entry interval in effect within the last 30 days. It includes associated roads, paths, ditches, borders, and headlands, if the pesticide was also directed to those areas (it does not include areas inadvertently contaminated by drift or overspray).

**Fieldworker** – means any person who, for any kind of compensation, performs cultural activities in a field. It does not include performing tasks as a crop adviser, including field checking or scouting, making observations of the well-being of the plants, or taking samples, nor does it include local, state, or federal officials performing inspection, sampling, or other similar duties.

**Early-Entry** – means entry into a treated field or other area after the pesticide application is complete, but before the restricted entry interval or other restrictions on entry for that pesticide have expired.



If you have questions or need more information, please contact your local County Agricultural Commissioner's office or call toll free 1-877-378-5463 (1-87PestLine).

A complete set of these booklets is available online from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's website at: **[www.cdpr.ca.gov](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov)**

Dept. of Industrial Relations Heat Illness Prevention:  
**[www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/heatillnessinfo.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/heatillnessinfo.html)**



**Food and Agricultural Code Div. 7 Agricultural Chemicals, Livestock Remedies, and Commercial Feed. 12996; Title 3. California Code of Regulations 6000, 6128, 6130, 6734, 6768.**

