

# PESTICIDE SAFETY



Information

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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## PESTICIDE SAFETY INFORMATION SERIES (PSIS) **A Series**

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# PESTICIDE SAFETY



Information

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**A No. 1**

## Working Safely with Pesticides in Agricultural Settings

**Workers who handle pesticides must be trained how to protect themselves.** Workers who handle pesticides in agriculture (on farms, forests, nurseries or enclosed spaces) must be at least 18 years old. Handle means to mix, load, or apply pesticides; repair or clean equipment that was used for pesticides; repair or remove tarps on a field; or touch unrinsed pesticide containers. The information in this leaflet will help teach you about working safely with pesticides.



### WHY SHOULD I WORRY ABOUT PESTICIDES?

Pesticides can get into your body many different ways and can have both immediate (acute) and long-term (chronic) effects on your health.

- Pesticides can make you sick by moving into your body through your skin, mouth, eyes, or your lungs as you breathe.
- If a pesticide can hurt you or make you sick right away, that is an acute health effect.

If you have to be exposed to a pesticide for a long time (months or years) before it makes you sick, that's called a chronic health effect.

### WHAT CAN A PESTICIDE LABEL TELL ME?

Most labels have a special word in capital letters on the front of the label. It tells you what the acute health hazard is.

The words you might see are:

- **DANGER** or **DANGER-POISON**, this pesticide is extremely harmful.
- **WARNING**, this pesticide is moderately harmful.
- **CAUTION**, this pesticide is less harmful, but still can make you sick.



If the label doesn't have one of these words, it means that the pesticide is less likely to harm you. However, you should handle every pesticide carefully.

The label also gives you information on:

- first aid
- personal protective equipment
- environmental hazards
- storage and disposal
- how to safely and correctly apply the pesticide to the listed sites

You must use pesticides according to the directions on the label. If you can't read the label, ask your employer to tell you what it says. California has stricter rules for your safety than those on the label. Your employer must know these rules and tell you about them.

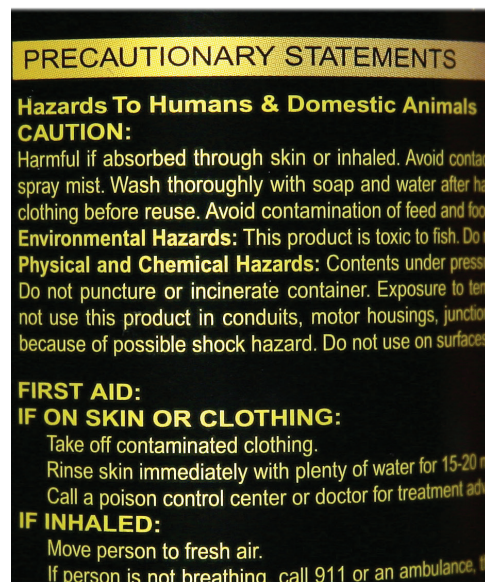
## WHAT ELSE DOES THE LABEL TELL ME?

- **“Restricted Use Pesticide”** will be on the label for certain pesticides that are more likely to make you or others sick or harm the environment. These pesticides have extra rules and can only be applied by, or under the supervision of, a certified applicator. Ask your employer for a copy of the A-8 safety leaflet for more information on restricted pesticides.
- **“Corrosive”** or **“Causes eye and skin damage”** will be on the label if the pesticide can severely hurt your eyes or skin.
- **“POISON”** and a skull-and-crossbones symbol will be on the label if the pesticide can make you very sick.
- **“Fatal”** or **“may be fatal if swallowed, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin”** will be on the label if the pesticide can make you very sick or even kill you.

## WHAT SAFETY RULES DO I NEED TO FOLLOW?

### 1. Look at the Conditions

After you read the label, look at your application situation (including your equipment and the weather conditions) for things like sensitive crops, people, buildings, or schools around you. If there is no wind, it can be dangerous to apply pesticides because pesticides can stay in the air. When the wind picks up, the pesticides can move with the air. Too much wind can make pesticides drift onto people and make them sick, or onto other crops and cause damage. Look at these conditions and decide if it's safe before you apply a pesticide, and be on the lookout during application to see if it is still safe to continue. If you don't think it's safe, stop and talk to your employer before starting or continuing the application.



## 2. Be Especially Careful With Pesticides Before They Are Mixed with Water

Moving opened pesticide containers before the pesticide is mixed with water, and hand-pouring pesticides from their containers, are the most dangerous parts of working with pesticides. Pesticides that are mixed with water and are in the application equipment may be less dangerous, but can still hurt you. When working with these or any pesticides, you should always try to avoid getting pesticide on yourself.

## 3. Wear the Right Kind of Protection

Your employer must give you personal protective equipment when it is required by the label or California's regulations, and tell you what to wear. Your employer must inspect, clean, and when needed repair or replace this protective equipment. Your employer must also make sure that it is stored in a pesticide-free place. You must properly wear the equipment provided. Ask your employer for a copy of the A-3 safety leaflet for more information about using personal protective equipment.

### Protecting Your EYES:

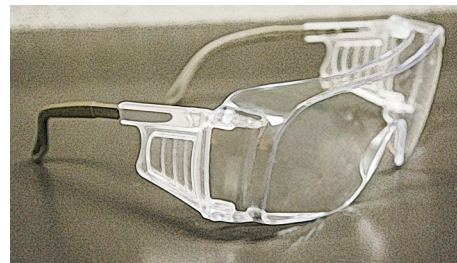
- You must wear eye protection when you mix, load, or apply pesticides; clean or repair equipment that was used for pesticides; and anytime the label says so.
- The label will tell you what type of protection to wear. If it does not, the eye protection can be safety glasses (with temple and brow protection), goggles, a face shield, or a full-face respirator. Pilots can use a helmet with a lowered face shield for eye protection.

Regular eyeglasses and sunglasses DO NOT provide enough protection. Pesticides can easily get around these glasses and into your eyes.

### Protecting Your HANDS:

Keeping pesticides off your hands is often the hardest part of working safely with pesticides. Once a pesticide gets on your hands, it can get in your eyes if you rub them or in your mouth if you touch your food. Always wash your hands after handling pesticides and before eating, drinking, smoking, using your phone, or going to the bathroom.

- You must wear gloves when you mix, load, or apply pesticides; clean or repair pesticide application equipment; and anytime the label says so.
- The label will tell you what type of gloves you must wear. If the label does not say what type you need, you must use gloves made of chemical-resistant material like nitrile or neoprene. You cannot use thin disposable gloves when you apply pesticides. Never wear fabric or leather gloves unless the label or other rules specifically say you may.
- In a few cases, the label may tell you not to wear gloves. If it does, do not wear them.



| dpr Glove Category Selection Key |                           |                |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Label code                       | Materials Required by Law | Material Code  |
| A                                | 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8           | 1 Laminate     |
| B                                | 1,2                       | 2 Butyl        |
| C                                | 1,2,3,4,7,8               | 3 Nitrile      |
| D                                | 1,2                       | 4 Neoprene     |
| E                                | 1,3,4,8                   | 5 Natural      |
| F                                | 1,2,3,8                   | 6 Polyethylene |
| G                                | 1,8                       | 7 PVC          |
| H                                | 1,8                       | 8 Viton        |

All but Laminate and Polyethylene must be 14 mils or thicker.



## Protecting your LUNGS:

You must wear a respirator anytime the label or your employer requires one, or if you are mixing, loading, or applying most pesticides on California's list of Minimal Exposure Pesticides. Ask your employer for a copy of the A-5 safety leaflet for more information about respirators or for a copy of the A-6 safety leaflet for more information on Minimal Exposure Pesticides.

## Protecting your BODY:

- You must wear clean coveralls provided by your employer each day that you work with pesticides that have either the word DANGER or WARNING on the label, unless the label says you cannot wear coveralls. A long-sleeved shirt and long pants provided by your employer as personal protective equipment also meet this requirement.
- Your employer must give you other chemical-resistant clothes and equipment (such as a suit that covers your body, an apron, foot and head protection) if the label or other rules call for them.
- If it is hot outside, wearing a chemical-resistant suit that covers your body may make you so hot that you can get sick. If the label or DPR's rules say you must wear a chemical-resistant suit, then you must not work in temperatures above 80°F (27°C) during the day or 85°F (29°C) at night.
- You must use a closed mixing system if the label requires it or if you mix or load liquid pesticides with special language on their labels about exposure to the skin. Ask your employer for a copy of the A-3 safety leaflet for more information on closed mixing systems.

## 4. Washing Pesticides Off and Changing Into Clean Clothes

Your employer must provide you with a clean, pesticide-free place to store your personal clothes while not in use, and where you can change clothes and wash up when you are done handling pesticides for the day.

Your employer must have a place with extra coveralls, clean water, soap, and paper towels, both at the mixing and loading site and within ¼ mile of where you are working.

If the label tells you to wear eye protection, you must have immediate access to eyewash water so that you can flush your eyes if there is an accident (you must carry eyewash water or it must be on the application vehicle). At the mixing and loading site, there must also be an eyewash station to flush your eyes with water for 15 minutes.



## HOW DO I LEARN ABOUT WORKING SAFELY WITH PESTICIDES?

California law says you must be trained before you handle pesticides for the first time and every year after that. Safety leaflets A-2 through A-10 also provide helpful information that you must be trained on. Your pesticide handler training must be presented in a way you understand, at a location free of distraction, with your trainer present the entire time.

Additionally, for each pesticide (or group of pesticides that are alike chemically), your training must include all of these things:

### Health Effects:

- Where and how pesticides can get in your body or make you sick.
- How you may feel or look if you get pesticides in or on you.
- How to prevent a heat-related illness, how you may feel or look if you get sick from the heat, and first aid for this illness.
- Ways to clean yourself if you get pesticides on you.
- Why special medical care is needed when you work with certain pesticides (the A-10 safety leaflet has more information on this).
- Hazards of the pesticide, including immediate and delayed effects.

### What to Do in an Emergency:

- First aid, emergency decontamination, and eye flushing techniques (the A-4 safety leaflet has more information on this).
- How and where to get emergency medical care.

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Why you need to wear PPE.
- How to use and take care of the PPE correctly.
- What PPE can and cannot protect you against.

### Pesticide Safety:

- Your responsibility to protect people, animals, and property when you apply pesticides and not to apply pesticides in a way that may contact people who are not involved in the application.
- The meaning of safety statements on the label.
- Safety rules for handling pesticides (including closed mixing systems and enclosed cabs, pesticide disposal, and spill clean-up).



- Field posting requirements and restricted entry intervals.
- Hazard information provided by labels, safety leaflets, and Safety Data Sheets (SDSs). SDSs tell you about pesticide hazards, medical treatment, and other information.
- How to tell if a pesticide is restricted, and the additional information you need to know if it is.
- Why you should not take pesticides or pesticide containers home from work.
- Why you should never put pesticides in a food or drink container.
- Potential hazards to children and pregnant women, including keeping children and family members away from treated areas, removing boots or shoes before entering your home, and removing your work clothes and washing or showering before contact with your family members.
- Pesticide dangers to the environment, such as drift, runoff, or wildlife hazards.



If you don't get all the information you need in your training or want to make a pesticide use complaint, you should call your County Agricultural Commissioner, or the DPR for more information. You can find the Commissioner's number in your local white pages phone directory, by calling 1-87PestLine, or at: [www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap)

## WHAT ARE MY EMPLOYEE RIGHTS?

You have the right as an employee:

- To know where you can find more information about pesticides, job safety information, safety leaflets, and SDSs.
- To have your physician or authorized representative receive information about pesticides you may have been exposed to.
- To be protected against retaliation for your exercise of these rights.
- To report suspected pesticide problems to the County Agricultural Commissioner or the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR).

DPR's Regional Offices are:

- Northern (Sacramento) (916) 603-7700
- Central (Clovis) (559) 297-3511
- Southern (Anaheim) (714) 279-7690



All safety leaflets are available at: [www.cdpr.ca.gov/worker-health-and-safety/education-series](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/worker-health-and-safety/education-series)

# PESTICIDE SAFETY



Information

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**A No. 2**

## Storing, Moving, and Disposing of Pesticides in Agricultural Settings

Pesticides are poisonous and must be stored, moved, and disposed of with caution. **Pesticides are a hazard for the environment and for other people, particularly children.** If you follow the directions in this leaflet, you can help prevent accidents with pesticides.

### SAFE PESTICIDE STORAGE

No job is finished until the pesticides, containers, and equipment have been put away properly. Always remember to store all of your materials safely before you clean up and go home, or move on to the next job. While you are cleaning up and putting away the pesticides, containers, and equipment, you must wear all the personal protective equipment (PPE) you used on the job. Consider wearing gloves and other protective equipment even if they weren't required on the label. Spills and accidents often occur as pesticides are being put away.

### How Should Pesticides Be Stored?

Every year, children are poisoned from eating or drinking pesticides that someone did not put away or throw out correctly. Keep pesticides and their empty containers either in a locked area, or under the control of a person who can keep others away. If the pesticides are not locked up, the person in control of the pesticides must be able to see the pesticides at all times to keep others away.

The label will tell you the right way to store the pesticide. Read and follow these directions. If you have to store pesticides in the same place as fertilizers, keep them apart. Pesticides and fertilizers can react with each other and start a fire.

Do not store pesticides near food, animal feed, or PPE. They can become contaminated with pesticide, and make people or animals sick.

Here are some acceptable ways to store pesticides and empty containers:

- A locked, fenced area.
- A lockable storage compartment.
- A truck or trailer with locked side racks. (The tops of the racks should be at least six feet above the ground.)



## Important Things to Remember

- Make sure all pesticide containers are labeled.
- Close container lids tightly.
- Check containers for leaks, breaks, or weak spots. Tell your supervisor if there is a problem.
- Never put pesticides in containers used for food, drink, or household products.
- DO NOT take home any pesticide that you use at work.
- Keep the storage area locked when you are not using it.
- Post signs on storage areas where pesticides with “Danger” or “Warning” signal words are stored.
- Follow the instructions on the label. Many pesticide containers tell you not to reuse or re-fill the container.



## MOVING PESTICIDES SAFELY

Accidents can happen even when you are moving pesticides a short distance. If there is an accident, the pesticide can make you and others sick, or contaminate the environment.

### What Do I Need to Know About Moving Pesticides?

Follow these rules:

- Never carry pesticides inside your car, van, or truck cab. Pesticides can cause injury or death if they spill on you or your passengers. Spills on seat covers may be impossible to get out. The pesticide may make people sick days or weeks later if it is not cleaned up properly.
- Never move pesticides in the same compartment as food, feed, clothing, or people.
- Close container lids tightly.
- Vehicles make turns, sudden starts, and stops. Secure pesticide containers in an upright position to prevent spills.
- If the pesticide has been put in another container, you must label this container when you move it on a public road. The label must have the **name** of the pesticide, its **signal word** (Danger, Warning, Caution), and the **name and address of the person responsible** for the container and the pesticide.
- Never let your vehicle out of your sight when you are moving pesticides in an open bed truck.

## RINSING CONTAINERS SAFELY

Disposable containers must be rinsed as soon as they are emptied. The label may have specific directions for you to follow when rinsing the container. If you are using a closed mixing system, the equipment may do the rinsing. Otherwise you can use one of these methods:

## METHOD #1 (triple rinsing)

1. Wear all the required PPE.
2. Fill the pesticide container about 1/4 full with water.
3. Close it tightly and shake it.
4. Pour all of this rinse water into the mix tank so it will be applied with the pesticide. Allow container to drain for 30 seconds after normal emptying.
5. Repeat steps 2, 3, and 4 at least two more times.

## METHOD #2 (for equipment with a rinsing unit)

1. Wear all the required PPE.
2. Put the opening of the container over the nozzle of the machine so the liquid will drain into the tank.
3. Turn the nozzle on and rinse until clean.

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## PESTICIDE SPILL CLEAN-UP

If the pesticide spill is on a public road, immediately call 911 and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) at 1-800-852-7550. If anyone has been contaminated or injured by the spill, administer first aid and contact your supervisor. For more information on first aid, ask your employer for the A-4 safety leaflet.

Set up cones or caution tape to keep people out of the spill area. If the spill is indoors, get out of the building and ventilate the area. The label may have detailed instructions for how to clean up a spill. Most labels have a toll-free number you can call if there is a spill to get specific guidance on spill clean-up. If the label is not specific, put on all PPE the label says, then follow these steps:

- **Control** the spill: Stand the container upright, shut off the mixing or application equipment, or put the leaking container into another container.
- **Contain** the spill: Use absorbent material to keep the product from spreading, use "snakes" or pillows from a spill kit, or make a dike of soil, sod, or other material around the spill area.
- **Clean** up the spill:
  - o Soak up liquid spills with absorbent materials like cat litter, sand, or clay.
  - o If the pesticide or absorbent material is likely to blow around, moisten it very slightly with water or cover it with a sweeping compound or plastic covering.
  - o If the spill is on soil, shovel out the top 2 to 3 inches of soil for disposal.
  - o Place clean-up materials or soil into a leak-proof container for proper disposal.
  - o Label the container with the pesticide name and signal word.

Notify your employer about the incident as soon as it is safe and practical to do so. If someone is contaminated or injured, your employer must notify Cal/OSHA of the incident.

## EMPTY PESTICIDE CONTAINERS

Pesticide containers are never "empty." They still have small amounts of pesticide in them even after they have been rinsed out. Empty containers must be treated and stored as if they still contain pesticides. This means the container must be labeled, must be stored in a locked area, and must have storage area posting signs if needed. Never toss containers into streams, ponds, fields, or



### PESTICIDE SPILLS:

- Control the spill
- Contain the spill
- Clean up the spill.

vacant buildings. Keep track of every pesticide container you used for the job. Never allow children or other persons to come in contact with empty containers. Never use them for anything else. Empty containers must be disposed of the right way, following the label and federal, state, and local rules.

Your employer must know how to dispose of containers. The County Agricultural Commissioner can tell your employer how to dispose of empty containers, including recycling plastic containers.

## PESTICIDE DISPOSAL

If you find pesticides in storage that are no longer used or are no longer legal to use, let your employer know. Proper disposal of unwanted or unused pesticides is important to keep people and the environment safe. Never throw unused pesticides in the trash, or pour leftover pesticides down a sink, toilet, sewer, street drain, or on the ground.

The label may tell you how to dispose of unwanted pesticides. If it is possible to do, the best way to dispose of a small amount of pesticide is to use it, according to the label directions.

In some cases, the pesticide may be able to be shipped back to the dealer or the maker of the pesticide.

Otherwise, your employer can contact the County Agricultural Commissioner or the county's waste disposal agency for more information.

## ARE THERE OTHER RULES?

Depending on the pesticide, there may be additional rules. If you are moving a pesticide, you must receive training about all the rules. Your employer should call the California Highway Patrol, Motor Carrier Safety Unit, if you are moving more pesticides than you will use in a few days.



If you don't get all the information you need in your training or want to make a pesticide use complaint, you should call your County Agricultural Commissioner, or the DPR for more information. You can find the Commissioner's number in your local white pages phone directory, by calling 1-87PestLine, or at: [www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap)

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# PESTICIDE SAFETY



Information

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**A No. 3**

## Closed Mixing Systems, Water-Soluble Packaging, and Enclosed Cabs in Agricultural Settings

For certain pesticides, there are extra safety rules, special equipment, and packages to help keep you safe. Your employer must make sure you know these rules before you use these types of pesticides.

There are many ways to protect yourself when mixing, loading, and applying pesticides. You must follow label directions, wear the right kind of clothes and personal protective equipment (PPE), and use the right kind of equipment.

### HERE ARE THREE SPECIAL KINDS OF EXTRA PROTECTION TO USE WHEN WORKING WITH DANGEROUS PESTICIDES

#### 1. Closed Mixing Systems

A “closed mixing system” is equipment that protects you from dangerous pesticides that can get on your skin. The pesticide label will tell you if a pesticide is dangerous if it gets on your skin. Closed mixing systems take the pesticide out of its container for you and prevent the pesticide from touching you. They may also remove the pesticide from the container and any hoses into the application tank for you. Before you use a closed mixing system, you must be trained how to use it and what safety rules to follow.

There are two types of closed mixing systems:

- **Tier 1** closed mixing system that removes the pesticide from the container and rinses and drains the empty container while it is still connected to the closed system.
- **Tier 2** closed mixing system that removes the pesticide from the container but does not rinse the container.



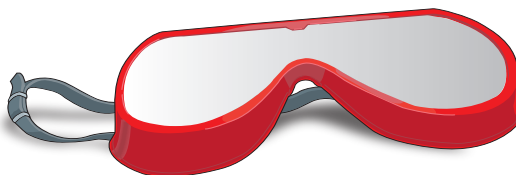
## When Do I Use a Closed Mixing System and What Type Should I Use?

**You must use a Tier 1 closed mixing system** if you mix liquid pesticides with statements on the label that say “Fatal if absorbed through the skin” or something similar.

**You must use a Tier 2 closed mixing system** if you mix liquid pesticides, except spray adjuvants, with statements on the label that say “May be fatal if absorbed through the skin,” “Corrosive, causes skin damage,” “Corrosive. Causes skin burns,” or something similar.

If you are mixing or loading one gallon or less of a pesticide requiring use of a Tier 2 closed mixing system in a single day, you do not have to use a closed mixing system, but you must wear all PPE required by the label or other rules.

If you mix or load a Minimal Exposure Pesticide, you can use a closed system to protect you and not wear certain PPE. Ask your employer for a copy of the A-6 safety leaflet for more information on Minimal Exposure Pesticides.



## Who Takes Care of a Closed Mixing System?

Your employer must make sure the closed mixing system is working properly and is regularly cleaned. It will not protect you if it is not working right. You have the right to wait until it is fixed before you work with the pesticide.

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## 2. Water-Soluble Packaging

For certain pesticides, the manufacturer of the pesticide also takes steps to protect you from harm. “Water-soluble packaging” is a special pesticide container or package. Both the package and the pesticide dissolve when you put the package in water. Using pesticides in water-soluble packaging protects you the same as a closed mixing system does. **NEVER** cut open a water-soluble package, even if you only want to use part of it. This puts you in great danger of getting the pesticide on you and becoming sick or hurt.

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## 3. Enclosed Cabs

An “enclosed cab” is a place where you can sit and be protected while pesticides are being applied around you. Enclosed cabs can be the cockpit of an aircraft, or any tractor or other vehicle with windows and doors that can close. Enclosed cabs must keep you from touching anything outside that has pesticide on it. The label may require you to use an enclosed cab during application. Your employer may also provide an enclosed cab for extra safety.

Even if you don’t have to wear all of the PPE required by the label or California’s rules, it must be with you and stored in a sealed container. You must wear the PPE if you exit the cab while you are in the treated area. Once you wear PPE in the treated area, you must remove it before reentering the cab.



## IF I USE EXTRA SAFETY EQUIPMENT, DO I STILL NEED TO WEAR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)?

You must always wear eye protection when using a closed system, which includes pesticides in water-soluble packaging. But sometimes you can wear different PPE. Pesticide labels and California laws list what PPE you need for certain pesticides. The chart below lists the kinds of PPE you can wear when you use extra safety equipment. Even if you don't have to wear all the PPE on the label when you use extra safety equipment, all the PPE must be at the place where you mix and load pesticides in case of an emergency.



If you don't get all the information you need in your training or want to make a pesticide use complaint, you should call your County Agricultural Commissioner, or the DPR for more information. You can find the Commissioner's number in your local white pages phone directory, by calling 1-877PestLine, or at: [www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap)

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### PPE YOU MAY USE WITH EXTRA SAFETY EQUIPMENT

| If you use  | Instead of  | You may use <sup>1</sup>   |
|---|---|--|
| Closed mixing system or water-soluble packets for pesticides with a "Danger" or "Warning" signal word | PPE required by the label or California's rules   | Coveralls, chemical-resistant gloves, chemical-resistant apron, and eye protection |
| Closed mixing system or water-soluble packets for pesticides with a "Caution" signal word             | PPE required by the label or California's rules   | Work clothing (shirt, pants, shoes) and eye protection                             |
| Enclosed cab  | PPE required by the label or California rules when respirator is not required   | Work clothing  |
| Enclosed cab <b>with</b> a properly maintained and functioning ventilation system                     | PPE required by the label, including a filtering face piece or dust/mist filtering respirator, or by California's rules | Work clothing  |
| Enclosed cab  | PPE required by the label, including a different type of respirator, <sup>2</sup> or by California's rules              | Work clothing and the respirator required by the label                             |

<sup>1</sup> All PPE required by the label or California's rules must be at the work site in case of an emergency.

<sup>2</sup> For example, a half-face or full-face respirator with an organic vapor cartridge.

# PESTICIDE SAFETY



Information

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**A No. 4**

## First Aid and Emergency Decontamination

First aid is any help given to a sick or injured person immediately after injury or exposure occurs until full medical care is available. Always tell your employer if someone gets sick or hurt at work. NEVER let sick or hurt people drive themselves to a doctor.

Among other topics, your pesticide safety training from your employer will cover:

- Washing your hands, body, and clothing and changing into clean clothes after working with pesticides or working in fields recently treated with pesticides.
- How and when to get emergency medical care.
- Training for some employees may cover cleaning pesticide application equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) that can be re-used.

However, accidents and emergencies can happen. There are steps you can take to be prepared in case of an emergency, and be better prepared to help yourself or others. This leaflet contains steps that you and your employer can take to help you be ready in an emergency.

### HOW DO I GET READY FOR AN EMERGENCY?

1. If you mix, load, or apply pesticides, read the pesticide label:
  - a. The first aid section lists what you should do if you or others are exposed.
  - b. The Precautionary Statements list hazards to people and ways to protect yourself, such as PPE to wear or engineering controls to use.
2. Safety Data Sheets provide information about first aid, potential symptoms, and emergency medical treatment.

SAFETY TIP

**4**

In case of an emergency

**DIAL 911**

or the free phone number for  
the poison control center,  
1-800-222-1222

**Disclaimer: This leaflet is not a substitute for emergency medical care or the advice of a medical professional. A trained first aid provider can keep an injury or illness from getting worse, but is not a substitute for your employer's obligations to transport you or a sick individual to emergency medical care.**

3. Know the signs and symptoms of both heat stress and pesticide exposure. Know first aid treatment and your employer's response procedures for both, including the name and location of the emergency medical facility.
4. Make sure you know where your decontamination supplies and pesticide first aid kit are.
  - a. If you apply a pesticide or do an early entry task that requires protective eyewear, you must carry a pint of eyewash for emergency eye flushing.
  - b. If you use a closed mixing system or handle a pesticide that requires protective eyewear, there must be an eye flushing system at the mixing and loading site.
5. Always know where you are. You may need to describe your location to emergency personnel.
6. Learn how to deal with emergency situations. One way to do this is to enroll in a first aid or CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) course.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IN AN EMERGENCY?

- Always protect yourself before you help others.
- If you believe you have been poisoned, injured, or made ill by pesticides, you should stop work and leave the area **RIGHT AWAY**, then seek medical attention as soon as possible.
- If you believe someone else is sick, get the person away from the pesticides if you can without hurting yourself. Remember the sick person might have pesticides on them or be working in an area that could get pesticides on you.
- Get help **RIGHT AWAY**. Tell your supervisor. If you have a phone, call 911. Tell the 911 dispatcher the location and the nature of the emergency, and what pesticide(s) are involved. Follow the dispatcher's instructions.
- Try to stop pesticides from getting in or on the sick person's body. You can find out how in the first aid procedures below.
- If you are sick, **DO NOT DRIVE YOURSELF**. Do not let someone else who is sick drive either. Your employer must immediately take you to the doctor.

**REMEMBER: Pesticides may not be the problem. It could be something else, like a heart attack or a heat illness.**

## HOW CAN PESTICIDES GET INTO MY BODY?

There are four main ways:

1. Breathing them
2. Getting them on your skin
3. Getting them in your eyes
4. Swallowing them



# FIRST AID AND EMERGENCY DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURES

## Breathing Pesticides

You can breathe in a pesticide through your mouth or nose. This can be by breathing in the vapor or dust from an application, including pesticide drift, or by entering treated areas.

### First Aid for Breathing in Pesticides:

- Outdoors, move yourself or the exposed person to where the air is clean and away from where the pesticide was applied. In open areas, go at least 100 feet (about 30 meters) away. If there is wind, make sure the wind is blowing the pesticide away from you.
- If the exposed person is in an enclosed area, such as a greenhouse, mushroom house or tarp-covered commodity, do not go in unless you are wearing the right respirator.
- Once out of the area, loosen any clothing that might make breathing difficult.
- If the exposed person is not breathing, give CPR if you know how. The emergency responders will take over when they arrive.
- Report to your supervisor and seek immediate medical treatment.



## Pesticides on Your Skin

Most often, pesticides get in your body through your skin. Pesticides get on your skin when you touch treated plants, soil, irrigation water, pesticide application equipment, and dirty work clothing. If you use your phone or the toilet with unwashed hands, pesticides may get on your skin too. Some pesticides move very fast through your skin. Others move slowly. Many pesticides can move through your clothes, even if they are waterproof. That is why it is important to get rid of any pesticide on your skin or clothing right away.

### First Aid for Pesticides on Your Skin:

The sooner you wash off the pesticide, the sooner the exposure ends.

- Take off all clothes that have pesticides on them. Try to limit contaminated clothing or PPE contact with your skin.
- Use decontamination supplies to wash immediately. You can also use a nearby source of clean, running water to rinse off the pesticide and follow up with decontamination supplies and soap.
- As soon as possible, wash or shower with soap and shampoo to clean your skin and hair.
- If you have chemical burns, avoid using ointments, lotions, powders, and other drugs in first aid treatment.



- Get dressed only in clean clothes.
- Report to your supervisor and seek immediate medical treatment.

## Pesticides in Your Eyes

Pesticides can get into your eyes from pesticide drift, or if you rub your eyes with your gloves or unwashed hands.

### First Aid for Pesticides in Your Eyes:

As part of your handler training, you will cover emergency eye flushing techniques. Some helpful tips are to:

- Rinse eyes with plenty of clean water. Rinsing in a shower is okay, but DO NOT use a hard spray. Otherwise, pour water over your eyes or use a gentle flow from a faucet or hose. The water from a hose may be hot from exposure to the sun or the hose end may have dirt/mud on it. Make sure the water from the hose is cool and the hose end is clean before you wash your eyes.
- Keep rinsing for at least 15 minutes.
- Keep the injured eye lower than the uninjured eye. DO NOT let rinse water run over the eye with pesticide in it into the other eye.
- If a contact lens is in the eye, begin flushing over the lens immediately. Then, if possible, remove the lens. The lens might hold the chemical against the eye.
- Blink while you are rinsing.
- NEVER force anybody's eyes open.
- Do not put medication or any substance in the rinsing water. Do not use any medicine or lotion after rinsing. DO NOT bandage the eye.
- Report to your supervisor and seek immediate medical treatment.



## Eating or Swallowing Pesticides

- You can transfer pesticides from your hands to your mouth if you drink, smoke, or eat without first washing your hands.
- Pesticide residues on treated plants may transfer to food, drink, or cigarettes brought into the treated area.
- DO NOT eat or drink from a container used to store pesticides, even if it has been washed.
- DO NOT drink irrigation water.
- DO NOT store pesticides in containers commonly used for food or drink. It often results in people accidentally drinking or eating the pesticide. This could cause them to become sick or die. It is illegal to store or mix pesticides in food or drink containers.

## First Aid if Someone Swallows a Pesticide

- Get help **RIGHT AWAY**. If you have a phone, call 911, or the free phone number for California Poison Control Center, 1-800-222-1222.
  - If the person is sleepy or unconscious from poisoning and you don't have a phone, TAKE THEM TO A DOCTOR OR HOSPITAL RIGHT AWAY. DO NOT give them anything to eat or drink. DO NOT try to make them throw up.
  - If the person is awake and alert, follow the first aid instructions on the label. These instructions will tell you what will be helpful or dangerous.
  - Report to your supervisor and seek immediate medical treatment as soon as possible.
- .....



If you don't get all the information you need in your training or want to make a pesticide use complaint, you should call your County Agricultural Commissioner, or the DPR for more information. You can find the Commissioner's number in your local white pages phone directory, by calling 1-87PestLine, or at: [www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap)

### DPR's Regional Offices are:

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## WHAT DOES THE DOCTOR NEED TO KNOW?

Your employer must tell the doctor or nurse exactly what happened with the pesticide(s) to make you or others sick. Your employer needs to warn the doctor or nurse that the person might be sick from pesticides so they can be prepared and protect themselves. Your employer needs to tell the doctor about the pesticide(s) involved and bring any information about the pesticide(s) to show the doctor. This information must include:



### Tell your doctor

Pesticide(s) name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Active ingredient(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The EPA registration number: \_\_\_\_\_

The safety data sheet (SDS) on the pesticide (y/n): \_\_\_\_\_

How the pesticide was used: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How the exposure could have happened: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# PESTICIDE SAFETY



Information

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**A No. 5**

## Protecting Yourself From Breathing Pesticides in Agricultural Settings

If you might be exposed to harmful dusts, droplets, or vapors, a respirator can help protect you. A respirator is a form of personal protective equipment (PPE). You must wear a respirator anytime the pesticide label, California's rules, or your employer requires one. If the label tells you to "avoid breathing dust, vapor, or mist" and you cannot do this, you may also need to wear a respirator. Your employer must know what type of respirator is required for your work. Your employer must give you, at no cost, a respirator when it is needed and you must wear it.



### CAN ANYONE USE A RESPIRATOR?

Breathing through a respirator can be very hard for some people. People with certain problems, such as high blood pressure, heart disease, or lung disease, may not be able to wear a respirator safely. If you are handling a pesticide and are supposed to use a respirator, your employer must get a doctor's permission before you are allowed to use it. The doctor will review a questionnaire that your employer will have you fill out. The doctor may also examine you. Your employer must tell the doctor what type of respirator you will use, your worksite activities, and what the air temperatures might be while you are wearing the respirator. The doctor must give a report to your employer (and give you a copy) about whether or not you can wear a respirator safely before you use one. Your employer must follow the doctor's written orders. You do not need to be seen by the doctor again unless your health changes or the doctor thinks you need additional checkups. If this happens, notify your employer that you may need to be seen by the doctor again.

**YOU MUST  
ALWAYS WEAR**  
a respirator anytime  
the pesticide label or  
California's rules require  
one.

## IF I HAVE A MUSTACHE OR A BEARD, CAN I WEAR A RESPIRATOR?

If you have a beard, a wide mustache, or long sideburns, a respirator cannot protect you properly because it cannot make a tight seal on your face. You cannot have facial hair wherever the mask contacts your face.

If your respirator does not make a tight seal on your face, your employer cannot let you do the work. Your employer can give you a different type of respirator that does not need a tight seal, or can provide a closed mixing system or enclosed cab for some uses (See the A-3 safety leaflet for more information on engineering controls and PPE).

## WHAT ELSE DO I NEED BEFORE I CAN WEAR A RESPIRATOR?

### 1. Fit Testing

After the doctor says you can wear a respirator, and before you use a respirator for the first time, you must be fit tested to make sure the respirator fits your face properly. Respirators come in different sizes. You may need to wear different respirators when you work with different pesticides. It is very important that any respirator you wear properly fits your face. Your employer or someone he or she hires will make sure the respirator fits your face and works to protect you. Fit testing must be done every year you have to wear a respirator, and any time there are changes to the way your face fits the respirator. When checking how your respirator fits your face, wear it in an area where there are no pesticides. If you wear eye glasses to help you see, or safety glasses or goggles to protect you while working, these cannot interfere with the fit of your respirator.

### 2. Training

Your employer must make certain you are trained on:

- Why you need to wear a respirator, and what it can and cannot do,
- How to use, inspect, and take proper care of the respirator,
- How to use a respirator in an emergency, including when the respirator doesn't work right,
- How you may feel if the respirator is not working properly, and
- How to check your respirator fit and seals each time you put on the respirator.

**You must get trained before you can use a respirator and every year you wear a respirator after that.** As part of your training, your employer may ask if your respirator still fits and if the types of respirators you use and the respirator maintenance are still working for you.



## HOW DO I GET THE RIGHT RESPIRATOR?

Most respirators do not really “clean the air.” What they do is cut down the amount of harmful chemicals getting into your lungs. They do this with special filtering materials. There are many kinds of respirators that will protect you from different dangers. The label, California’s rules, or your employer will tell you what kind of respirator to use. To keep you safe, it is important for the respirator to match your work. For example:

- If the pesticide is a dust, a filtering face piece (like the one pictured) may be all you need to protect yourself.
- Some pesticides change into vapor, so you might need to wear a half-face respirator with special filters (cartridges) to protect your lungs.
- Sometimes you might need to use a supplied air respirator such as a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) to make sure you have clean breathing air.

The respirator you wear must have the letters “NIOSH” somewhere on it to show that it is an approved mask. NIOSH is the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Masks without the NIOSH marking do not provide adequate protection and are NOT considered respiratory protection.



## HOW CAN I TELL IF MY RESPIRATOR IS NOT WORKING?

Filters can stop working after a while and the pesticide can either pass through them and you will breathe it in, or the filter can clog up and make breathing very difficult. Because many pesticides do not have a smell or cause any irritation, your employer must tell you when and how often to replace the filters. If you notice a smell, odd taste, burning eyes or throat, or it gets hard for you to breathe, leave the area **RIGHT AWAY**. Go to a safe area that contains no pesticides. Then take off your respirator and look at it carefully. Is it torn, cracked, worn out, or dirty? If it is, ask your employer to replace your respirator. If there are no problems you can see, you may need to change the filter.



## WHEN DO I REPLACE THE FILTER?

You can determine when to replace the filter by following these rules in order (if number 1 doesn’t apply, move to number 2, and so on):

1. You notice a smell, taste, or irritation.
2. The directions on the label say so.
3. The respirator maker says it should be replaced when working with a specific pesticide.
4. Replace at the end of each workday if there are no other instructions.

## WHO TAKES CARE OF THE RESPIRATOR?

Your employer must make sure your respirator is inspected before you use it and when you clean it. Your employer can train you how to do this. Your employer must make sure respirators for emergency use are checked monthly and a log of the checks is kept with the respirator. When respirators are broken, your employer must fix them. If they cannot be fixed, your employer must get new ones.

Do not use someone else's respirator. Your employer must give you your own respirator and make sure it gets cleaned after use and disinfected as needed, or give you a respirator that can be thrown away after one use.

Your employer must make sure that all PPE, including respirators, are stored away from pesticides. Respirators also need to be protected from dust, sunlight, and big changes in temperature when stored. Water or certain chemicals can also damage the filters or cartridges. Other chemicals can damage the mask itself. Respirators should be stored so the face piece does not become bent. Hard plastic containers with air tight lids are good storage containers for respirators.

## WHAT RECORDS MUST MY EMPLOYER KEEP?

Your employer must keep the following as long as you need to wear a respirator and for at least three years after you no longer need to wear one:

- Written respirator program.
- Doctor's evaluation result.
- Training, employee consultation, and fit test records.

Your employer must let you look at these records anytime you want to.



If you don't get all the information you need in your training or want to make a pesticide use complaint, you should call your County Agricultural Commissioner, or the DPR for more information. You can find the Commissioner's number in your local white pages phone directory, by calling 1-87PestLine, or at: [www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap)

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# PESTICIDE SAFETY



Information

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**A No. 6**

## Safety Rules for Minimal Exposure Pesticides (MEPs) in Agricultural Settings

Some pesticides are called “Minimal Exposure Pesticides,” or **MEPs**, because it is important to make sure you are exposed to them as little as possible. MEPs can hurt you in ways you might not notice right away. If you are exposed to them, they could be doing damage in your body and causing problems you might not notice until much later.

### THESE ARE THE THREE MEPS YOU MIGHT USE IN YOUR JOB:

#### 1. Bromoxynil (Example: Moxy, Maestro, Cleansweep)

- **USE:** Controls broadleaf weeds in grain crops, corn, cotton, sorghum, flax, alfalfa seedlings, rangeland, mint, garlic, onions, sod, and non-crop sites.
- **DANGER:** If you are a pregnant woman and exposed to even a little of these pesticides, it might hurt you and/or your unborn child.

#### 2. Oxydemeton-methyl (No registered products)

- **USE:** Controls insects and mites.
- **DANGER:** These pesticides can affect your nervous system. If you are exposed to too much of them you might start vomiting, get a headache, feel sick to your stomach, or your vision might blur. If you are a man and are exposed to even a little of these pesticides, it might hurt your ability to have children.

#### 3. Propargite (Example: Omite, Decimate, Comite)

- **USE:** Controls mites on cotton, corn, garlic, grapes, strawberries, onions, stone fruits, and other crops.
- **DANGER:** If you are exposed to too much of these pesticides, your skin and eyes might start hurting, you might start coughing, or your throat might feel sore. If you are a pregnant woman and exposed to even a little of this pesticide, it might hurt you and/or your unborn child. These pesticides might cause cancer if you are exposed to them for a long time.



## WHAT MUST MY EMPLOYER DO TO PROTECT ME WHEN I USE THESE PESTICIDES?

If you handle MEPs, **your employer** must give you the following personal protective equipment (PPE):

- Coveralls (or a long-sleeved shirt and long pants).
- Chemical-resistant clothes that cover your body, head, arms, and legs, except when:
  - o You use a closed mixing system or water-soluble package to mix, load, or transfer the pesticide,
  - o You use an enclosed cab when applying the pesticide,
  - o You use equipment to inject or incorporate the pesticide into the soil, or
  - o Spray nozzles are directed downward and are located below you.
- Chemical-resistant gloves and boots.
- Eye protection, with some exceptions.
- The right kind of respirator (See the table at the end of this leaflet). Ask your employer for the A-5 safety leaflet for more information on respirators. You must wear a respirator:
  - o When you mix or load dry MEPs (such as a dust or powder) unless the pesticide is in a water-soluble package.
  - o When you apply MEPs by hand or ground equipment, with some exceptions.

If you meet one of the exceptions, your employer must still have the required PPE present and available in case of an emergency. Your employer must make sure that all PPE is cleaned well or thrown away at the end of each work day. Ask your employer for a copy of the A-3 safety leaflet for more information about these exceptions.

Additionally, your employer must provide:

- Enough water, soap, and single use towels for normal washing and in case of an emergency where you mix and load the pesticides.
- A place with enough water, soap, and clean towels where you can change your clothes and wash at the end of your work day.
- A clean, pesticide-free place to store your own clothes while you work with these pesticides.

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## ARE THERE ANY SPECIAL RULES I SHOULD KNOW?

- You cannot use these pesticides in a greenhouse.
- If you use a closed mixing system, water-soluble packaging, or an enclosed cab, you may not have to wear PPE required by the label or other rules. Ask your employer for a copy of the A-3 safety leaflet for more information about the equipment and the other types of PPE you can wear.



- You and your employer should first read the label to determine what respirator to wear. If the label doesn't tell you, use the following table:

| MINIMAL EXPOSURE PESTICIDE RESPIRATOR REQUIREMENTS |   |
|--|---|
| Pesticide Product Examples                         | Minimum Required Respirator   |
| Moxy, Maestro, Cleansweep                          | Particulate filter (N-, R- or P-rated). Use R- or P-rated only if there is oil in the pesticide mix                             |
| Oxydemeton-methyl (no registered products)         | Organic vapor cartridge with R- or P-rated particulate filter   |
| Omite, Decimite, Comite                            | Organic vapor cartridge with N-, R-, or P-rated particulate filter. Use R- or P-rated only if there is oil in the pesticide mix |



If you don't get all the information you need in your training or want to make a pesticide use complaint, you should call your County Agricultural Commissioner, or the DPR for more information. You can find the Commissioner's number in your local white pages phone directory, by calling 1-87PestLine, or at: [www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap)

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# PESTICIDE SAFETY



Information

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**A No. 7**

## Washing Pesticide Work Clothing

If you work around crops, with pesticides, or with pesticide equipment, your work clothes can have pesticides on them. You can get pesticides on you even if you wear personal protective equipment (PPE), such as coveralls, over your own clothes. This leaflet tells you how to clean your work clothes. It is your employer's job to clean your PPE. Following these directions will help protect you and your family from pesticides.

### HOW SHOULD I TAKE CARE OF MY WORK CLOTHES?

Wear work clothing that helps protect you from pesticide residues. This includes a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, shoes, and socks. Your training from your employer should help you learn where you can be exposed to pesticides at work. To protect yourself, it is important to wear clean work clothes every day.

Before you leave work, check your clothing. If you have pesticide powder, granules, or loose dirt on your clothes, shoes, or boots, shake them off before you leave. Pay special attention to your cuffs and pockets.

### Protecting Your Family

When you get to your car or home, remove your work shoes or boots before you enter. Pesticides can be carried on your work shoes and boots, especially if you handle pesticides. Leave your work shoes or boots outside your home.

When you get home, change out of your work clothes. Keep your work clothes (in addition to socks and undergarments) separate from other laundry. You can do this by putting the clothes into a closed plastic bag or other sealable container outside your home to prevent family and pets from touching them.



### TIPS

- **Wear rubber gloves.**
- **Keep work clothes separate from other laundry.**
- **Use a pre-soak cycle or run through the wash cycle twice.**
- **Use the highest water level.**
- **Wash a full cycle, in very HOT water.**
- **Use a strong detergent.**
- **If possible, dry the clothes outside on a line.**
- **Clean the washing machine by running a cycle with no clothes.**

Do not hug or touch your family until you have changed out of your work clothes, washed or showered, washed your hair, and changed into clean clothes. This is to protect your family from pesticides.

## Washing Your Work Clothes

Wash your work clothes that may have pesticide residues on them as soon as you can. Washing your work clothes every day is best. The longer you wait, the harder it may be to wash the pesticide off. It is important to wash your work clothes before wearing them again. If you keep wearing the clothes, you can get more pesticides on them. Pesticides on your clothes can get onto your skin and into your body making you sick.

Before your clothes are washed, tell the person who does the laundry at home that your clothes may have pesticides on them. Explain how to wash them.

You cannot get all the pesticides off of leather items such as watch bands, belts, and boots. You must throw these items away if they have pesticides on them. If you wear them again, the pesticide can get in your body through your skin.

Throw away clothes soaked with pesticides. Do not try to clean them.

### When You Wash Your Clothes:

- Do not mix your work clothes with other laundry. They must be washed alone, or pesticides could get onto your family's laundry and make them sick.
- Handle dirty clothing with rubber gloves. Try to dump the clothes straight from the plastic bag into the washer, without touching them. Then wash the gloves, take them off, and throw them away if they are disposable. Then wash your hands and arms.
- Use the maximum recommended amount of laundry detergent.
- Only put a few things in the washer at one time.
- Pre-rinse, pre-soak, or run through the wash cycle twice.
- Use the longest cycle (at least 12 minutes) with LOTS of HOT water and a strong detergent. Cold water will not do a good job taking out pesticides.
- Fabric softeners, bleach, and ammonia do not help take out pesticides. NEVER mix bleach and ammonia. This makes toxic gases that can make you very sick.

### After You Wash Your Clothes:

- Before you use the washing machine again on your family's clothes, clean it by running it with no clothes—only hot water and detergent.
- If you can, dry your clothes on a line outside. The sun will help get rid of any pesticides that are left and prevent residues in your drier.
- If you dry the clothes in a dryer, run it on the hottest setting your clothes can handle until the clothes are completely dry. Then, run the dryer empty for 10 minutes. Don't combine washed work clothing with other laundry.



## What if I Spill Pesticide on My Clothes?

If you spill pesticides on your clothes, take them off RIGHT AWAY. If you spill a pesticide that is full strength (not mixed with water), DO NOT try to clean the clothes. You must THROW THEM AWAY. Follow the state and local rules for doing this (ask your employer how to do this).

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## WHAT ABOUT CLEANING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)?

PPE is the property of your employer. It is your employer's job to make sure reusable coveralls and other PPE are cleaned after use. Your employer may train you how to clean your PPE at work. **NEVER** take PPE home to clean it.

If you mix, load, or apply pesticides, your employer must provide you with a clean, pesticide-free place at work to store personal clothes while handling pesticides, remove your PPE, wash, and change clothes at the end of the workday. **NEVER** take PPE that may have pesticides on it into your home.

**If you do not go to your employer's headquarters at the end of your workday**, you must take off your coveralls and put them in an employer-supplied container (a plastic bag or a 5 gallon bucket with lid is good) outside of your home. Return them to your employer for washing.



If you don't get all the information you need in your training or want to make a pesticide use complaint, you should call your County Agricultural Commissioner, or the DPR for more information. You can find the Commissioner's number in your local white pages phone directory, by calling 1-87PestLine, or at: [www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap)

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# PESTICIDE SAFETY



Information

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**A No. 8**

## Safety Rules for Employees Handling Pesticides in Agricultural Settings

The pesticide label, your training, and the Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS) leaflets tell you about pesticide dangers at work. To handle pesticides in agriculture (on farms, forests, nurseries or greenhouses) you must be at least 18 years old. Your employer must teach you how to use pesticides safely and how to protect yourself when you use them. Pesticides are chemicals that are used to control pests: unwanted insects, predatory animals, rodents, weeds, and plant diseases. Spray adjuvants are also pesticides under California law.



**EMPLOYERS:** This is the hazard communication leaflet for pesticide handlers. Fill in the blank lines in this leaflet and display a copy of this handout at a central location in the workplace (such as an employee break room). This leaflet must also be posted at all permanent decontamination facilities and decontamination facilities serving 11 or more handlers. If requested, you must read this leaflet to an employee in a language the employee understands.

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

Your employer must make plans for emergency medical care before you start working with pesticides. If you think that pesticides made you sick or hurt you at work, immediately tell your employer. They must make sure that you are taken to a doctor right away. **DO NOT TAKE YOURSELF.**

Emergency medical care is available at:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

If more space is needed, your employer may attach a list of medical facilities to this leaflet and write, "See attached list" in the above space. If this information changes, your employer must update it within 24 hours.

**REMEMBER:** You DO NOT have to pay for medical care if you get sick or hurt from pesticides at work.

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## WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

Your employer must explain your rights to you. If you need help understanding your rights, call or go to your local County Agricultural Commissioner's office, local legal aid and worker's rights organization, union, or the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR).

### 1. Right to Know

You have the right to know the following about pesticides that have been used recently where you work:

- The crop or site treated and where the treated area is
- When the application started and ended
- The restricted entry interval (REI)
- Name of the pesticide, U.S. EPA registration number, and active ingredient(s)
- The Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for the applied pesticide. The SDS tells you about the pesticide and its dangers.

As part of your training, your employer must tell you where this information is kept. Your employer must also let you see the records anytime you want without having to ask for them.

**You can find information about recent pesticide use at:**

(Employers: This is the application-specific information)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Right to Worker's Compensation

If you get sick or hurt **BECAUSE OF YOUR JOB**, you have the right to file for worker's compensation. Worker's compensation will pay for your medical bills, and sometimes, lost pay.

### 3. Right to Access and Review Records

You have the right to look at pesticide use records, applicable pesticide safety series leaflets, and SDSs for all pesticides used in the last two years where you work. You also have the right to review your training records, medical supervision records, and any other documents related to monitoring or potential exposure. You must be informed of the location of the records before you handle pesticides and in your annual training.

These records are kept at:

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If this location changes, your employer must promptly tell you of the new location.

SAFETY TIP

8

### HOW CAN I TELL WHICH PESTICIDES ARE MORE DANGEROUS?

Most pesticide labels have a signal word ("Danger," "Warning," "Caution") on the front of the label. This word tells you about the acute health effect of the pesticide.

### IF YOU THINK

pesticides have made you sick at work, immediately tell your employer. Your employer must make sure that you are taken to the doctor **IMMEDIATELY.**

## 4. Right to Obtain Information

You, your doctor, or your representative designated in writing can receive information about your pesticide exposure, or any other pesticide record your employer is required to keep.

## 5. Right to Report Unsafe Conditions

Pesticide safety for workers is the top priority of the County Agricultural Commissioner and DPR. You have the right to report unsafe pesticide work conditions and suspected pesticide use violations without being punished or fired. Neither the grower nor your employer will be told who made the complaint. Your statements about the safety problems must be checked out right away.

## 6. Right to Be Protected From Retaliation

You are protected from being fired, from discrimination, and from any retaliatory action due to the exercise of any of your rights.

## WHO DO I TELL ABOUT DANGERS AT WORK?

Pesticides are only one kind of danger at your work. If you have a complaint about a pesticide safety problem, call your County Agricultural Commissioner. You can look up the Commissioner's number in the government pages of your local phone book, or by calling DPR's information line, 1-87PestLine (1-877-378-5463). If you have other health and safety complaints (bathrooms, heat stress, drinking water, etc.), file them with the California Department of Industrial Relations Cal/OSHA office by calling: 1-844-522-6734.

## WHAT PESTICIDE TRAINING SHOULD I GET?

Your employer must give you training in a way that you understand **BEFORE** you begin working with pesticides, and anytime you work with new pesticides.

You must get training **EACH YEAR** to remind you how to work with pesticides safely. Your employer must:

- Tell you the ways a pesticide can hurt you and how to safely use each pesticide you work with (ask your employer for the A-1 safety leaflet to learn more about training).
- Give you extra training if you use a restricted pesticide (see next section).
- Tell you how to move pesticides from one place to another, or dispose of empty pesticide containers (there are special rules your employer must tell you about. Ask for the A-2 safety leaflet for more information).
- Give you extra training if you use engineering controls such as closed mixing systems (ask your employer for the A-3 safety leaflet).
- Train you on first aid and emergency decontamination (ask your employer for the A-4 safety leaflet).
- Give you extra training if you have to use a respirator (ask your employer for the A-5 safety leaflet).
- Train you to wash your work clothes separately from other clothes before wearing them again (ask your employer for the A-7 safety leaflet).



| Pesticide Name  |     |
|---|-----|
| EPA Registration No.  |     |
| Active Ingredients  | xx% |
| Inert Ingredients   | x%  |
| <b>DANGER</b>   |     |
| First Aid<br>Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur.                                       |     |
| Precautionary Statements<br>Hazards to Humans<br>Personal Protective Equipment<br>Environment Hazards   |     |
| Agricultural Use Requirements<br>Em ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. |     |
| Directions for Use<br>Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.                      |     |

Other safety leaflets mentioned in this document should be part of your training. They are free and are available from your employer, your County Agricultural Commissioner, or DPR's website at <https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/worker-health-and-safety/education-series/>.

All the information about your training must be written down. You will be given a paper to sign to show you have been trained and what pesticides you have been trained on. Only sign this form after you have finished the training and you understand what you heard.

.....

## ARE THERE ANY EXTRA RULES FOR VERY DANGEROUS PESTICIDES?

Yes, California has extra rules for three groups of pesticides that are more hazardous. These groups and their rules are:

### 1. Organophosphate and Carbamate Pesticides

Cholinesterase is a chemical in your body that helps your nerves work properly. Exposure to organophosphates and carbamates can keep cholinesterase from working and make you sick. If you mix, load, or apply organophosphates or carbamates with the signal word "Danger" or "Warning," your employer must record how often you are exposed to these pesticides. If you handle these pesticides more than six days in any 30 day period, California's rules say you must get extra medical care. Ask your employer for the A-10 safety leaflet for more information on these pesticides.

If you need extra medical care, your employer maintains test results and recommendations of the medical supervisor. The doctor providing extra medical care for organophosphates and carbamates is:

DOCTOR'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_



### 2. Minimal Exposure Pesticides

These are the agricultural minimal exposure pesticides and some examples of product names.

- Bromoxynil (Moxy, Maestro, Cleansweep)
- Oxydemeton-methyl (No registered products)
- Propargite (Omite, Decimite, Comite)

See the A-6 safety leaflet for more information about safety rules if you have to work with these pesticides.

### 3. Restricted Pesticides

Pesticides are restricted if they are more likely than other pesticides to make you sick or cause harm to others or the environment. If you handle restricted pesticides, your employer must give you additional training on:

- how to identify these pesticides,
- that you must be supervised by a certified applicator,
- the certified applicator's responsibility to give you specific information about the pesticide and the site, and
- how to contact the certified applicator.

## SUMMARY OF INFORMATION YOUR EMPLOYER MUST KEEP

| Information  | Location   |
|--|--|
| Training records   | Central workplace location   |
| Written training program   | Central workplace location   |
| Completed Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS) A-8         | Display at central workplace location and post at decontamination facility serving 11 or more handlers |
| Respirator program and employee consultations                    | Employer's headquarters  |
| Respirator medical evaluation result                             | Employer's headquarters  |
| Respirator fit test records                                      | Employer's headquarters  |
| Respirator voluntary use display (if allowed by employer)        | Display alongside completed PSIS A-8   |
| Accident response plan (fumigants)                               | Work site  |
| Pesticide label  | Work site  |
| Applicable Pesticide Safety Information Series leaflets (A1-A10) | Central workplace location   |
| Emergency medical care posting                                   | Work site or work vehicle  |
| Application-specific information                                 | Central workplace location   |
| Safety Data Sheets   | Central workplace location   |
| Pesticide use records  | Central workplace location   |

## PROPOSITION 65

In 1986, a law called the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65) was passed. It requires California to make a list of chemicals that can cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm. The Proposition 65 list contains many different chemicals, including dyes, solvents, pesticides, drugs, and food additives. If a pesticide you use is on the Proposition 65 list, your employer must warn you if you could be exposed to enough pesticide to cause a significant health risk. Your employer may also choose to tell you if a pesticide on the Proposition 65 list has been sprayed, even if health problems are not likely. As stated above, your employer must keep information on each pesticide application at the address listed on page 2 and allow you to look at it. If you are not sure of this location, ask your employer.

**You can find the list of pesticides that are on the Proposition 65 list and that might be used in California at [https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/prop\\_65\\_list.pdf](https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/prop_65_list.pdf)**

For more information on Prop 65, see [https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/pesticides\\_and\\_proposition\\_65.pdf](https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/pesticides_and_proposition_65.pdf)



If you don't get all the information you need in your training or want to make a pesticide use complaint, you should call your County Agricultural Commissioner, or the DPR for more information. You can find the Commissioner's number in your local white pages phone directory, by calling 1-87PestLine, or at: [www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap)

### DPR's Regional Offices are:

- Northern (Sacramento) (916) 603-7700
- Central (Clovis) (559) 297-3511
- Southern (Anaheim) (714) 279-7690



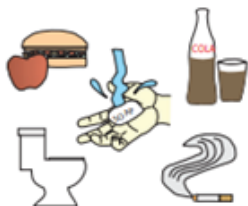
All safety leaflets are available at:  
[www.cdpr.ca.gov/worker-health-and-safety/education-series](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/worker-health-and-safety/education-series)

# Safety Tips

## HOW TO PROTECT YOUR SKIN



- Wear clothes with long sleeves and long pants, shoes or boots, socks, a hat and/or bandana, and gloves
- Make sure they are clean and without holes



- Always wash your hands before eating, drinking, smoking, chewing gum, using your phone, or going to the bathroom
- Do not cook food with wood found in the field



- Pesticides can get on work clothes and then on your skin
- Wash work clothes before wearing them again
- Wash work clothes separate from other clothes



- Wash or shower as soon as you get home from work and before any contact with children or family
- Wash with soap and water, and use shampoo on your hair
- Put on clean clothes

## WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF ILLNESS



- Pesticides can get on your skin and clothes when you touch treated plants, soil, irrigation water, tractors, and other equipment, on used personal protective equipment, or are exposed to spray drift
- They can move from your clothes and onto your skin
- Some pesticides can easily go through your skin and make you sick
- Tell your employer immediately if you are sick (headache, stomach ache, vomiting, dizzy) or hurt at work
- He or she must make sure you are taken to a doctor

**Have someone else drive you to the doctor if you are sick or injured. DO NOT DRIVE YOURSELF**

## FIRST AID



- Wash immediately with the closest clean water if pesticides are spilled or sprayed on your clothes or skin
- Change into clean clothes
- Tell your employer about the spill after washing



- Wash if your eyes or skin begin to itch or burn
- Use lots of water
- Tell your employer you should go to a doctor

## ALWAYS REMEMBER



- Never put pesticides in food or drink containers
- Do not take farm pesticides or their containers home

## STAY SAFE!



- Keep children and family away from pesticides
- Follow directions about keeping out of treated areas and application exclusion zones

# PESTICIDE SAFETY



Information

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**A No. 9**

## Pesticide Safety Rules for Employees Working in Fields

Your training and this leaflet tell you about pesticide dangers at work. Pesticides are chemicals that are used to control unwanted insects, weeds, and plant diseases. If you work on a farm, or in a forest, greenhouse, or nursery, your employer must know about the pesticides used and help you learn how to protect yourself.

### FERTILIZERS ARE NOT PESTICIDES.

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

Your employer must plan for medical care before you start working where pesticides have been used. You or your supervisor must be informed of the location of the doctor. If you think that pesticides made you sick or hurt you at work, immediately tell your employer. They must make sure that you are taken to the doctor immediately. Do not drive yourself to the doctor if you get sick at work.

**Emergency medical care is available at:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

If more space is needed, your employer may attach a list of medical facilities to this leaflet and write "See attached list" in the above space.

**REMEMBER:** You DO NOT have to pay for medical care if you get sick or hurt from pesticides at work.



**EMPLOYERS:** This is the hazard communication leaflet for your fieldworkers. Fill in the blank lines in this leaflet and display a copy of this leaflet at the employee's worksite, all permanent decontamination facilities, and decontamination facilities serving 11 or more workers. If requested, you must read this leaflet to an employee in a language the employee understands.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I START FEELING SICK AT WORK?

Pesticides can make you sick. Symptoms of pesticide poisoning can be the same as being stressed or ill from heat, having the flu, or other common illnesses. If you get a headache, dizziness, coughing, eye pain, blurred vision, burning eyes, an upset stomach, flu-like symptoms, or a rash while working in the field, ask your employer to take you to the doctor. You can also get skin rashes from plants and insects in the field.

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## WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

Your employer must explain your rights to you. If you need help understanding your rights, call or go to your local County Agricultural Commissioner's office, local legal aid and worker's rights organization, union, or the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR).

### 1. Right to Know

You have the right to know the following about pesticides that have been used recently where you work:

- The crop or site treated.
- Where the pesticide was applied.
- When the application started and ended.
- The restricted entry interval (REI).
- Name of the pesticide, active ingredient(s), and U.S. EPA or California registration number.
- The Safety Data Sheet for the applied pesticide.

Your employer must tell you where this information is kept, and must tell you if the location of this information changes. For recent applications, your employer must let you see the records anytime you want without having to ask anyone. You may have to ask to see older records.

You can find information about recent pesticide use at:  
(Employers: this is the application-specific information)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

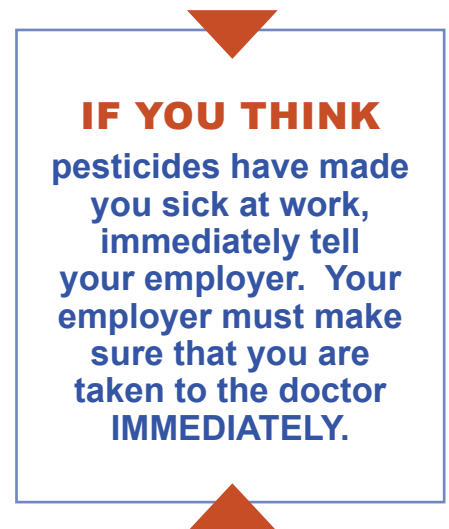
HOW TO FIND THE INFORMATION: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If more space is needed, your employer may attach a list of grower names, addresses, and descriptions to this leaflet and write "See attached list" in the above space.

### 2. Right to Worker's Compensation

If you get sick or hurt BECAUSE OF YOUR JOB, you have the right to file for worker's compensation. Worker's compensation will pay for your medical bills, and sometimes, lost pay.



### 3. Right to Access and Review Training Records

You have the right to look at your safety training records from your employer. These records are kept at:

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Right to Obtain Information

You, your doctor, or your representative designated in writing can receive information from the grower or your employer. This includes which pesticides the fields were treated with or any other pesticide record the grower or your employer has to keep.

### 5. Right to Report Unsafe Conditions

Pesticide safety for workers is the top priority of the County Agricultural Commissioner and DPR. You have the right to report unsafe pesticide work conditions and suspected pesticide use violations without being punished or fired. Neither the grower nor your employer will be told who made the complaint. Your statements about the safety problems must be checked out right away.

### 6. Right to Be Protected From Retaliation

You are protected from being fired, from discrimination, and from any retaliatory action due to the exercise of any of your rights.

## WHO DO I TELL ABOUT DANGERS AT WORK?

Pesticides are only one kind of danger at your work. If you have a complaint about pesticide safety, call your County Agricultural Commissioner. Your local County Agricultural Commissioner's office is:

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have other health and safety complaints (bathrooms, heat stress, drinking water, etc.), file them with the California Department of Industrial Relations Cal/OSHA office by calling: 1-844-522-6734.

## HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF FROM PESTICIDES?

Learn all you can from this leaflet and your safety training. **BE SAFE.** Know where you may be exposed to pesticides. If your employer tells you to stay out of a field, do not go in it. Stay away from equipment that is applying pesticides. After working in a field, wash your hands before eating, drinking, chewing gum, using your phone, smoking,



or going to the bathroom. At the end of the day, remove your boots or shoes before entering your home and removing your work clothes. Wash your body and hair with soap or shampoo right after work, and change into clean clothes as soon as possible. Wash your work clothes before wearing them again.

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## **WHEN I WORK IN A FIELD, WHAT MUST MY EMPLOYER GIVE ME TO WASH UP?**

When you work in a field that has been treated with pesticides, there must be a place nearby with soap, clean water, and paper towels. This is for washing your hands and face, and for emergency eye flushing. You must be told where these items are before you work in the field. If pesticides are spilled or sprayed on you, use these supplies to wash immediately, and inform your employer.

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## **WHEN DO I NEED TRAINING AND WHAT DOES IT COVER?**

You must be trained before working in fields where pesticides have been used recently, and every year after that. The pesticide safety training must be in a language you understand, and be done by a qualified trainer. You must be trained at a location free of distractions and your trainer must be with you the entire time you are being trained. Your employer must make your training record available to you anytime you ask for it.

Your employer must train you about:

### **1. Health Effects**

- How pesticides can injure you or make you or your family sick.
- How to protect yourself and your family (especially children and pregnant women) from pesticides.
- How you may feel or look if you get pesticides in or on you.
- Ways pesticides can enter your body.
- How you may feel or look if you get sick from being too hot and what first aid steps to take.

### **2. Pesticide Safety**

- The places at your work where you might get pesticides in or on you.
- First aid and emergency washing methods, including eye wash.
- How, when, and where to get emergency medical care.
- What work clothes to wear and how to wash your work clothes.
- Why and how you should wash after work.
- Why you should not take pesticides home from work.
- What field posting signs and restricted entry intervals mean.
- That your employer must keep you out of application exclusion zones.
- What your employer must give you before you enter a field during a restricted entry interval.



- Where filled out copies of this leaflet are displayed and where other pesticide records are kept.
- What is in a Safety Data Sheet, including hazards, medical care, and other information.
- How to report suspected pesticide violations.
- Your rights as an employee.

The information about your training must be written down. You will be given a paper to sign to show you have been trained. Only sign this form after you have finished the training and you understand what you heard.

You cannot be told to mix, load, or apply pesticides unless you have been trained by your employer to do that job safely (the A-8 safety leaflet has more information about safely handling pesticides).

## WHAT WILL I BE TOLD ABOUT NEARBY PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS?

Your employer must tell you about nearby applications on the property OR the grower must post warning signs in fields that are being treated with pesticides. When there is a nearby application being made to the property you are on, your employer must tell you:

| BEFORE APPLICATION  | AFTER APPLICATION  |
|---|--|
| Date of application                                       | Location and description of the treated area                 |
| Location and description of the treated area              | Dates and times when entry is restricted                     |
| Not to enter the field and the application exclusion zone | To stay out of the field until entry is no longer restricted |

This must be in a language you understand. Follow directions from your employer about staying out of treated fields and enclosed spaces like greenhouses, hoop houses, or mushroom houses.

## WHAT DOES “RESTRICTED ENTRY INTERVAL” (REI) MEAN?

A REI is the time after a pesticide has been applied when you are not allowed to go into a field. If you touch a plant in a treated field during the REI, you might become sick. After a pesticide is used on a plant, it will begin to go away. But this takes time, so you must stay out of the treated field or enclosed space until the REI ends and your employer or the grower tells you it is safe to work in the field or enclosed space.

**WASH WORK CLOTHES**  
separate from other laundry.

**DANGER**



**KEEP OUT  
NO ENTRE**

GROWER: \_\_\_\_\_

FIELD IDENTIFICATION: \_\_\_\_\_

REI EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*If you see a sign like this, it means stay out!*

## CAN I EVER GO INTO A FIELD WITH A REI IN EFFECT?

Usually, you must stay out of a field until the REI ends and your employer or the grower tells you that you can enter the field. Never walk or sit in a field that has been sprayed with pesticides. Your employer will try to schedule pesticide applications and your work so you will not go into sprayed fields. Normally, you cannot be told to enter a field or enclosed space if warning signs are posted

There are a few times when you can go into a field or enclosed space during the REI. However, you cannot go into the field until at least **four hours** after the pesticide application. You must be at least 18 years old to enter a field during the REI. There may also be other rules that apply. Before you go into the field each time, your employer must provide you with extra training and protective clothing or equipment. They must also tell you how long you can work in that field in one day. For some kinds of jobs, you may only be allowed to work in that field for a short period of time.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW IF I HAVE TO GO INTO A FIELD DURING THE REI?

Your employer must tell you each time:

1. Where you will be working.
2. The name of the pesticide sprayed and when the REI began and when it will end.
3. If there are special restrictions on your tasks, such as if you can touch treated surfaces and how much time you can be in the area.
4. What the label says are dangers to you.
5. How you may feel or look if you get pesticides in or on you.
6. What emergency first aid steps to take if a pesticide makes you sick and how to get help right away.
7. Where to find this leaflet and the A-8 safety leaflet.
8. The protective clothes or equipment you must wear, and that once worn, your work clothes and protective clothes or equipment may be contaminated with pesticides.
9. How to keep from getting sick from being too hot if you use protective clothing or equipment and to know what first aid steps to take if you do get sick.
10. How to wear, remove, store, and clean the protective clothes and equipment.
11. Why you need to thoroughly wash after you leave the field.



Your employer must give you all the clean protective clothing or equipment you need. If the label requires you to protect your eyes, you need to carry eyewash while you are working. You must be given a clean, pesticide-free place to store your personal clothing, and to put on or take off protective clothing or equipment. You must also be given extra coveralls in case you get pesticide on your clothes. Your employer must give you soap, clean water, and towels for you to wash up.

## PROPOSITION 65

In 1986, a law called the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65) was passed. It requires California to make a list of chemicals that can cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm. The Proposition 65 list contains many different chemicals, including dyes, solvents, pesticides, drugs, and food additives. If a pesticide you use is on the Proposition 65 list, your employer must warn you if you could be exposed to enough pesticide to cause a significant health risk. Your employer may also choose to tell you if a pesticide on the Proposition 65 list has been sprayed, even if health problems are not likely. As stated above, your employer must keep information on each pesticide application at the address listed on page 2 and allow you to look at it. If you are not sure of this location, ask your employer.

**You can find the list of pesticides that are on the Proposition 65 list and that might be used in California at [https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/prop\\_65\\_list.pdf](https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/prop_65_list.pdf)**

For more information on Prop 65, see [https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/pesticides\\_and\\_proposition\\_65.pdf](https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/pesticides_and_proposition_65.pdf)



If you don't get all the information you need in your training or want to make a pesticide use complaint, you should call your County Agricultural Commissioner, or the DPR for more information. You can find the Commissioner's number in your local white pages phone directory, by calling 1-87PestLine, or at: [www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap)

DPR's Regional Offices are:

- Northern (Sacramento) (916) 603-7700
- Central (Clovis) (559) 297-3511
- Southern (Anaheim) (714) 279-7690



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All safety leaflets are available at:  
[www.cdpr.ca.gov/worker-health-and-safety/education-series](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/worker-health-and-safety/education-series)

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# Safety Tips

## HOW TO PROTECT YOUR SKIN



- Wear clothes with long sleeves and long pants, shoes or boots, socks, a hat and/or bandana, and gloves
- Make sure they are clean and without holes



- Always wash your hands before eating, drinking, smoking, chewing gum, using your phone, or going to the bathroom
- Do not cook food with wood found in the field



- Pesticides can get on work clothes and then on your skin
- Wash work clothes before wearing them again
- Wash work clothes separate from other clothes



- Wash or shower as soon as you get home from work and before any contact with children or family
- Wash with soap and water, and use shampoo on your hair
- Put on clean clothes

## WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF ILLNESS



- Pesticides can get on your skin and clothes when you touch treated plants, soil, irrigation water, tractors, and other equipment, on used personal protective equipment, or are exposed to spray drift
- They can move from your clothes and onto your skin
- Some pesticides can easily go through your skin and make you sick
- Tell your employer immediately if you are sick (headache, stomach ache, vomiting, dizzy) or hurt at work
- He or she must make sure you are taken to a doctor

**Have someone else drive you to the doctor if you are sick or injured. DO NOT DRIVE YOURSELF**

## FIRST AID



- Wash immediately with the closest clean water if pesticides are spilled or sprayed on your clothes or skin
- Change into clean clothes
- Tell your employer about the spill after washing



- Wash if your eyes or skin begin to itch or burn
- Use lots of water
- Tell your employer you should go to a doctor

## ALWAYS REMEMBER



- Never put pesticides in food or drink containers
- Do not take farm pesticides or their containers home

## STAY SAFE!



- Keep children and family away from pesticides
- Follow directions about keeping out of treated areas and application exclusion zones

# PESTICIDE SAFETY



Information

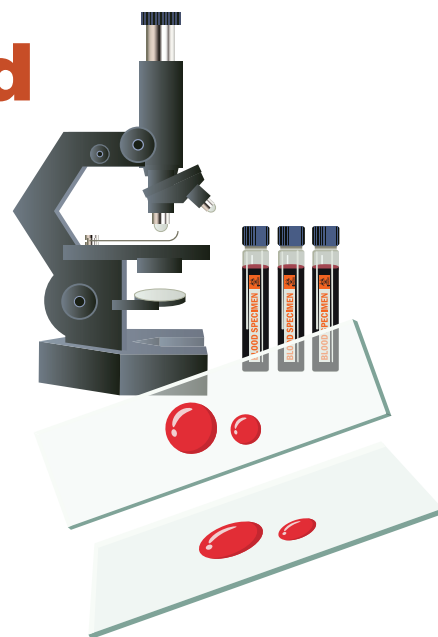
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**A No. 10**

## Extra Medical Care For Handlers Who Use Organophosphates and Carbamates

If you mix, load, or apply organophosphate or carbamate pesticides, you might need extra medical care. Your employer must track how often you work with these pesticides. Your employer must arrange for you to get extra medical care if:

1. You use these pesticides for more than 6 days in a 30-day period, AND
2. The label of the pesticide(s) you use has the word “DANGER” or “WARNING” on it.



### WHAT IS EXTRA MEDICAL CARE?

If you require extra medical care, you must get special blood tests so the doctor can tell if the pesticides are hurting your body. This may be happening even if you don't feel sick. The blood tests measure cholinesterase, a chemical in your body that helps your nerves work properly.

Organophosphates and carbamates can keep cholinesterase from working and harm your nerves. You must have the blood tests to make sure you aren't getting sick while working with these pesticides.

Having blood tests to check your cholinesterase **MUST** be part of your extra medical care.

### WHEN DO I GET THE BLOOD TESTS?

You will need to take a blood test if you will be working with these pesticides for more than 6 days in a 30 day period. You must take



this blood test when you have not worked with organophosphates and carbamates for at least 30 days. This first blood test will tell you what your normal cholinesterase level is. This level is compared to later tests to make sure you are still okay. Your normal cholinesterase level must be rechecked every two years.

## WHERE DO I GO TO GET THE BLOOD TESTS?

Your employer must arrange with a doctor for you to have the blood tests and your employer must pay for the tests. Your employer must post the doctor's name, address, and phone number where you can see it, such as on the A-8 safety leaflet displayed at your job site.

## HOW OFTEN DO I NEED A BLOOD TEST?

After the doctor determines your normal cholinesterase level, you must:

1. Be tested at the end of each 30-day period for the first 3 months; then,
2. Be tested every 60 days after the first three months (or as recommended by the doctor).

After you have had your blood tested several times, the doctor may change how often you should be tested.

## HOW DO I FIND OUT WHAT MY BLOOD TEST SHOWS?

Within 14 days of receiving the test results, the doctor will notify you and your employer of the results and any recommendations. Your employer must keep the records of your blood test results and the doctor's advice for three years and let you look at these records anytime you want to.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF MY BLOOD TESTS SHOW MY CHOLINESTERASE LEVELS ARE LOW?

If your blood tests show your cholinesterase level is low, it means that there could be a problem when you work with these pesticides. Your employer must find out if you are being exposed to the pesticide.

If there are problems, your employer must:

- Fix any equipment that is not working right.
- Make sure that you are working safely with these pesticides or change how you work with them.

If your cholinesterase level gets very low, your employer must stop you from working with these pesticides before you become very sick. You cannot work with these kinds of pesticides until your blood tests show your body is getting better. You may do other work or handle other pesticides during this time.

You and your employer must follow all instructions from the doctor. Only the doctor can explain what your blood tests mean.



If you don't get all the information you need in your training or want to make a pesticide use complaint, you should call your County Agricultural Commissioner, or the DPR for more information. You can find the Commissioner's number in your local white pages phone directory, by calling 1-87PestLine, or at: [www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap)

DPR's Regional Offices are:

- Northern (Sacramento) (916) 603-7700
- Central (Clovis) (559) 297-3511
- Southern (Anaheim) (714) 279-7690



All safety leaflets are available at:  
[www.cdpr.ca.gov/worker-health-and-safety/education-series](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/worker-health-and-safety/education-series)