**Frequently asked questions**

Q: Can I wear my regular eyeglasses or contact lenses for eye protection?  
A: No, they do not protect your eyes from dust from the product.

Q: Are cotton or leather gloves adequate to protect my hands while handling pesticides?  
A: No. Cotton or leather gloves absorb pesticide and hold it close to the skin, as will cloth linings in rubber gloves. However, rubber dishwashing gloves provide adequate protection when using most home pesticides; once you wear gloves for handling pesticides, do not use them for any other purpose. Disposable surgical gloves are too thin and are not chemical resistant.

Q: What do I do if I spill a pesticide on my clothing?  
A: Stop what you are doing immediately. Do not wash your contaminated clothing until you have removed the pesticide and hold it close to the skin, as will cloth linings in rubber gloves. However, rubber dishwashing gloves provide adequate protection when using most home pesticides; once you wear gloves for handling pesticides, do not use them for any other purpose. Disposable surgical gloves are too thin and are not chemical resistant.

Q: What to Wear When Handling Pesticides

Pesticides can enter your body by being absorbed by your:
- Skin
- Eyes
- Lungs

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

Why wear PPE?

- PPE reduces such absorption by providing a barrier between your body and the pesticide.
- Pesticides can enter your body by being absorbed by your: – Skin – Eyes – Lungs
- PPE reduces such absorption by providing a barrier between your body and the pesticide.

Care of PPE

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

Laundering PPE

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

What to Wear When Handling Pesticides

Read the pesticide label for specific clothing and equipment requirements.

**What is “Personal Protective Equipment?”**

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

Why wear PPE?

Pesticides can enter your body by being absorbed by your:
- Skin
- Eyes
- Lungs

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

When to wear PPE

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

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

Put on all PPE BEFORE opening the pesticide container.

Home PEST seeks to provide homeowners with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about pesticides.

The Home PEST project was developed by the University of Wisconsin-Extension Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) program.

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