

Tailgate Safety Training for Landscaping and Horticultural Services

Agricultural Safety Program, 590 Woody Hayes Drive, Columbus, OH 43210

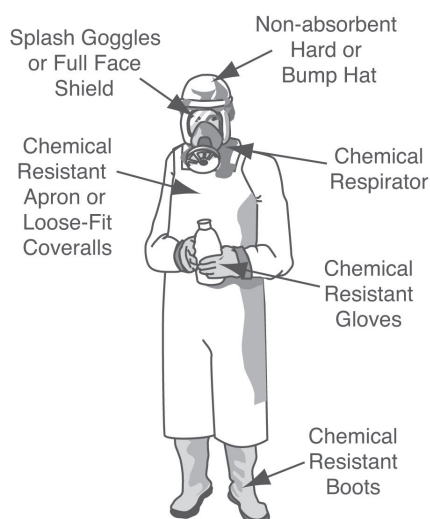
Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for Pesticides

Objective: Choose the proper protection for pesticide application.

How to Use This Module

Personal protection equipment (PPE) is critical in working with pesticides safely. For this module:

- Read the information below on different types of PPE.
- Ask your supervisor to provide PPE and pesticide labels from your own work.
- Discuss what equipment to wear during pesticide application with your supervisor.
- Examine pesticide labels and determine what equipment is required.
- Review the important points.
- Take the True/False quiz to check your learning.



Background

Different PPE is available for use with pesticides. Pesticide labels give minimum requirements. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides resistance ratings for equipment. Remember that more is better!

For more details, see all the Tailgate Safety Training modules on pesticides.

Gloves

Wear unlined, elbow length, chemical-resistant gloves when handling any pesticide concentrate or chemical labeled DANGER, POISON, or WARNING. Not all gloves are suitable for all chemicals. Contact the glove manufacturer to determine if a specific glove is suitable for a particular chemical.

Check gloves for holes or leaks. To check for leaks, fill the gloves with water and squeeze. Throw the gloves away if water squirts through a hole. Leaks or holes in the gloves can expose the skin to chemicals. Either tuck gloves into shirt sleeves or vice versa. This prevents the chemicals from getting inside the gloves at the cuff. Before removing the gloves, wash them with detergent and water to prevent contaminating the hands.

Never wear cotton or leather gloves. They do not protect against skin exposure. Instead, they absorb the pesticide; workers are exposed again each time they wear the gloves.

Footwear

Wear unlined, lightweight, nonabsorbent boots that go up to midcalf. Wear long pants over boots to avoid getting pesticides inside the boots. After each use, thoroughly wash and dry boots inside and out to remove residue. Always wear gloves when cleaning contaminated footwear or any equipment.

Eye Protection

Wear tight fitting, non-fogging chemical splash goggles or a full face shield with splash protection. Straps should be nonabsorbent. Clean the eye protection and wash the sweatband after each use.

Head Protection

Wear a waterproof rain hat or washable, wide-brimmed hard or bump hat. Or, wear the hood of a disposable suit. Avoid cotton and felt hats — no ball caps. They absorb pesticides; workers are exposed again when they wear the hat again.

Clothing

Spraying contaminates clothing so be sure to wear fresh clothing daily. Remove contaminated clothing starting at the top and moving down. Roll clothing off, rolling contamination inward to prevent spreading.

Wash contaminated clothing separately from other laundry. Dispose of hooded disposable suits and items that are saturated with pesticides. Drop into plastic waste bag rolled in an open position.

Respirators

Wear a respirator when the pesticide label recommends it. It will be necessary to wear a respirator when handling concentrated, highly toxic pesticides. Ensure that the respirator fits properly and is the appropriate type for the hazard. Wear only respirators approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health with the correct filter.

Review These Important Points

- Wear the right equipment for the job.
- Never use faulty or worn-out equipment.
- Always wash thoroughly when finished with pesticide applications.

About These Modules

The author team for the training modules in the landscape and horticultural tailgate training series includes Dee Jepsen, Program Director, Agricultural Safety and Health, Ohio State University Extension; Michael Wonacott, Research Specialist, Vocational Education; Peter Ling, Greenhouse Specialist; and Thomas Bean, Agricultural Safety Specialist. Modules were developed with funding from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Grant Number 46E3-HT09.

Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture or the U.S. Department of Labor.

Answer Key: 1 = T, 2 = F, 3 = T, 4 = T, 5 = F.

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Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for Pesticides

Name _____

True or False?

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Eye protection should fit snugly and be non-fogging. | T | F |
| 2. Wear pants on the inside of the boots to avoid getting pesticides on the pants. | T | F |
| 3. Use a respirator as called for by the pesticide label. | T | F |
| 4. Never wear the same clothes without washing them first. | T | F |
| 5. It's OK to wear ball caps when applying pesticides. | T | F |