



MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

THINKING SAFE AND GREEN

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY



#11

SELECTING APPROPRIATE PESTICIDE PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

Information given here is intended for use by program representatives, master gardeners, and those they train.



Information available from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program indicates, between 1982 and 2003, approximately 800 injuries and illnesses were caused by topical pesticide exposure. During the same time period, an additional 1,800 injuries and illnesses were suspected to be related to topical pesticide exposure. DPR defines topical pesticide exposure as health effects to the eyes and/or skin. Selecting the appropriate protective clothing reduces the potential for experiencing topical pesticide exposure.

Regulatory Awareness

- The California Code of Regulations requires the use of coveralls for employees that handle any pesticide with the signal word “DANGER” or “WARNING” on the label except when handling pesticides in a closed system (i.e., pesticide mixing area) or occupying an enclosed cab. Moreover, chemical-resistant aprons shall be used when specified by the pesticide product label. The California regulatory approach to coverall use is recommended for protection from pesticide exposures.
- “Coverall” is defined as a one- or two-piece garment of closely woven fabric or equivalent that covers the entire body, except the head, hands, and feet, and is considered to be a form of pesticide protective equipment or clothing. Coverall differs from, and should not be confused with, everyday attire or work clothing.

Home and Garden Use Pesticides

- Most Home and Garden products are not use pesticides that have a “Danger” or “Warning” label. They typically have a “Caution” label. As such the protective clothing requirements are generally reduced to include long sleeves, long pants, eye protection and closed shoes. See <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pni74126-1c.html> for more details
- As described on the pesticide label, additional personal protective equipment shall be worn such as eye protection, respirators, and chemical-resistant gloves, boots, and headgear.

Appropriate Types of Pesticide Protective Clothing

- Cloth Coveralls - close woven cloth coveralls are appropriate for applying dry particulate pesticides. Cloth coveralls used when applying dry particulate pesticides shall be washed separate from other clothing.
- Tyvek® Coveralls - are appropriate for applying dry particulate (as small as five microns) pesticides.
- ProShield® 1 Coveralls - are appropriate for applying dry particulate pesticides and also provide repellency from non-hazardous light pesticide splashes.
- ProShield® 2 Coveralls - are appropriate for applying dry particulate pesticides and also provide a barrier to non-hazardous liquid pesticides.
- Chemical Resistant Aprons - are composed of chemical protective fabrics, such as Tychem® or vinyl, that allow no measurable movement of pesticides through the material during use and are suitable for use when mixing liquid pesticides.

Always follow pesticide label directions for personal protective equipment.