

Reducing your family's exposure to farm chemicals



LAUNDERING CONTAMINATED CLOTHING

Clothing worn while spraying chemicals normally becomes contaminated. From these clothes, the body can absorb the chemicals and they may also pose a risk to other people, including family members in the home.

Personal protection clothing (PPE) can reduce chemical exposure, but unless washed properly, significant amounts can remain on clothing. Keep in mind the following, when washing, to reduce exposure to chemicals on clothing and within the household:

- Wear unlined chemical resistant (nitrile) gloves when handling clothing and laundering
- Use a garbage bag for temporary storage of contaminated clothing
- Discard clothing saturated with a product concentrate, along with any contaminated leather apparel
- Keep children away from clothing that has been exposed to chemicals
- Wash clothing as soon as possible
- Always wash PPE separately from the family wash, ideally a separate washing machine should be used
- Empty all pockets and cuffs of any residue (ie granules) and dispose of according to chemical label
- Pre-treat soiled areas with stain remover
- Pre-rinse in washing machine or pre-soak in an appropriate container
- Do not overcrowd clothes in machine
- Wash in hot water as it removes more chemicals from clothing
- Use the highest water level and the longest wash cycle
- Use heavy duty liquid detergents for liquid chemicals and a powdered detergent for granular or powdery chemicals. Increase the amount used by 1 ½ – 2 times
- Wash gloves, hands and arms after the laundering process
- Dry clothes on the line outside to avoid contaminating the dryer. Sunlight helps to break down chemical residue
- Rinse the washing machine with an "empty load" using hot water and a full wash with the same detergent

In an emergency call the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 to obtain advice or dial 000 for an Ambulance. Have the label with you when calling and take it with you to hospital.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, REFER TO

AusChem Training WA
www.auschemwa.com.au

Farmsafe WA
www.farmsafewa.org

FIRST AID FOR FARM CHEMICAL POISONING



Immediate and appropriate action may be necessary to prevent serious injury to a victim of chemical poisoning. The product label should be a first source of information in an emergency. You need to know where these are kept. Check the chemical label and the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for information on the effects of over exposure as well as emergency and first aid procedures.

If the chemical has been spilt on skin or clothing:

- Remove contaminated clothing immediately and wash skin with soap and water
- Rinse the affected area with water, wash again and rinse
- Gently dry the affected area and wrap in a loose cloth, or a blanket if necessary

If the chemical has burnt skin:

- Cover the area loosely with a clean, soft cloth. Avoid the use of ointments, greases, powders and other medications
- It may be best to dispose of contaminated clothes, otherwise wash as specified

If the chemical has been inhaled:

- Get the victim to fresh air immediately; carry them, don't let them walk
- Have the victim lie down and loosen clothing
- Keep the victim warm and quiet
- If the victim is convulsing, watch the breathing and protect the victim's head. Keep the chin up to keep air passages free for breathing
- If breathing, stops or is irregular, follow Senior First Aid principles and phone 000

If the chemical has entered eye:

- Hold the eyelid open and immediately begin gentle washing of the eye with clean running water. Continue washing for 15-20 minutes
- Flush under eyelids with water to remove debris
- Do not use chemicals or drugs in the water unless instructed by a doctor or the Poisons Information Centre
- Avoid contamination of other eye if only one eye is involved
- Cover the eye with a clean piece of cloth and seek medical attention immediately

If the chemical has been swallowed:

- Do NOT induce vomiting
- Read the label to identify accurately
- Rinse mouth with water
- Give sips of water or milk slowly
- **IF SWALLOWED, SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**

First aid is only the first response, and is not a substitute for professional medical help.

BASIC FIRST AID KIT

You will need the following in your first aid kit to deal with chemical poisoning:

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| • Clean water | • An approved mask or mouth piece for resuscitation | • Soap and nail brush |
| • Towel | • Disposable eye wash bottle and eye wash solution | Note: Ipecac syrup is no longer recommended and should not be available for sale |
| • Clean cloth | | |