

Safety Note #67

SELECTING APPROPRIATE PESTICIDE PROTECTIVE CLOTHING



Photograph Courtesy of REC
Administrative Office

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 Requirements

- California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 3, Section 6736 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.
- CCR Title 3, Section 6000 defines “coverall” 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 must be provided by the employer as personal protective equipment. Coverall differs from, and should not be confused with, work clothing that can be required to be provided by employers.
- 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.