



# MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

## THINKING SAFE AND GREEN

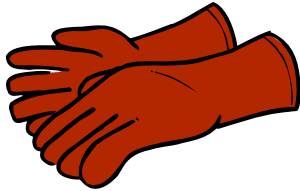


**AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**#4**

### **PESTICIDE GLOVE USE**

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



More than 200,000 recordable hand and finger injuries occur each year in the United States. Hand injuries cost an average of \$1,700 per incident. Many of these injuries could be prevented through the proper selection and use of gloves.

Hand protection is recommended when work involves unusual and excessive exposure of hands to cuts, burns, harmful physical or chemical agents or radioactive materials which are encountered and capable of causing impairments or injuries. Accordingly, it is a prudent safety practice to use chemically-resistant gloves when handling pesticides or entering areas where pesticides have been applied.

#### **Glove Selection**

- Always review pesticide labels or material safety data sheets (MSDSs) to determine whether chemically-resistant gloves must be used and if so, what type of chemically resistant gloves should be worn.
- Suitable resistant materials for liquid pesticide concentrates include butyl, fluorocarbon, nitrile, or barrier laminate.
- Suitable materials for water-based pesticides, wettable powders, and granules include natural rubber, neoprene, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene, and the above-described resistant materials.
- If the glove material is not resistant to the pesticide you are using, glove damage should become quickly recognizable. If this is the case, immediately discard the damaged gloves and try a different material.

#### **Glove Safety Precautions**

- Be aware that all gloves are permeable and no glove provides 100% protection.
- Prior to use, check gloves for holes, tears, deformation, or other defects.
- Wash gloves with soap and water and rinse gloves with running water prior to removal.
- Peel one glove off by grasping the cuff, then peel the second glove off similarly so that you end up with both gloves reversed with the contaminated surfaces to the inside.
- Never pull gloves off with your teeth.
- Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water after removing gloves.
- Signs that reusable gloves need replacement include punctures, tears, staining, color change, softening, swelling, bubbling, stiffening, cracking, dissolving, and/or leaking.
- Dry washed gloves in a decontaminated area, place dry gloves in a sealed plastic bag, and store gloves away from possible contamination.
- Routine glove replacement should occur when there is direct glove contact with highly toxic pesticides for a short time or repeated contact with pesticides over a longer period of time.