



Southwest Center
FOR AGRICULTURAL HEALTH, INJURY PREVENTION, AND EDUCATION

Pesticide Safety

Learn how to work with pesticides safely to protect you and your family.





Contact Areas

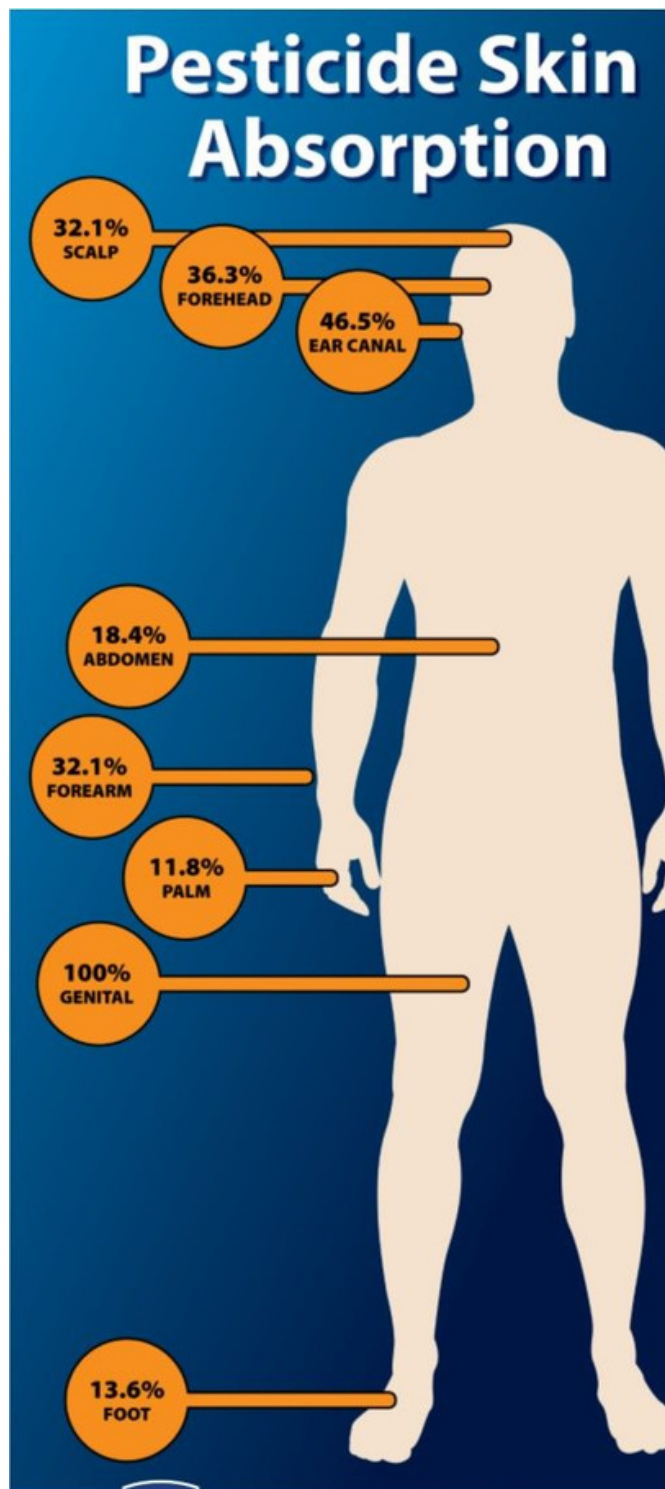
Without realizing, pesticides can be ingested or absorbed through your skin.

For example:

1. When you eat or drink after applying pesticides but forget to wash your hands.
2. When you go to the bathroom after applying pesticides but forget to wash your hands.
3. When you wipe your eyes or forehead after applying pesticides but forget to wash your hands.

Contact Areas

Protect your hot spots!



Wash your hands immediately after applying or handling pesticides!

Oral Exposure

Pesticides are swallowed or ingested.

- **Eating, drinking, smoking, or chewing tobacco without washing hands.**
- **Accidentally consuming a pesticide as food or drink.**
- **Using pesticides on food by accident.**
- **Accidentally or carelessly splashing pesticides into one's mouth.**





Dermal Exposure

Pesticides come in direct contact with the skin.

- **Handling pesticides or their containers without cleaning hands.**
- **Pesticides are sprayed or splashed on bare skin.**
- **Using pesticides in windy conditions.**
- **When handling pesticides or their containers, wearing insufficient personal protection equipment.**



Inhalation Exposure

Breathing in pesticides.

- **Contact with pesticides for an extended period in enclosed or poorly ventilated locations.**
- **Vapors from fumigants and other pesticides are inhaled.**
- **Using pesticides without proper protective equipment and inhaling vapors, dust, or mist.**
- **Inhaling pesticide vapors shortly after application.**
- **Using the wrong respirator or one that isn't correctly fitted, as well as filters and cartridges.**





Ocular Exposure

Pesticide comes in contact with the eyes.

- **Getting pesticides in your eyes by splashing or spraying them.**
- **Using pesticides in windy conditions without wearing eye protection.**
- **Using contaminated gloves or hands to rub your eyes.**
- **Without eye protection, pouring dust, grains, or powder compositions.**





Preventing Exposure

- Put on the appropriate personal protective equipment.
- If you begin to inhale pesticide spray or dust, get out of the area as soon as possible and into fresh air.
- Make use of a sealed handling mechanism.
- Personal protective equipment should be maintained and cleaned on a regular basis.
- To reduce dermal exposure, wash exposed body areas frequently. Read the pesticide labels carefully.
- Change clothes before entering vehicle or home.

Did you know?

It's possible that a combination of two exposures can be hazardous.

For example, daily exposure to a pesticide through contaminated clothing paired with an acute exposure such as pouring a pesticide on your skin poses one of the greatest risks because the body may not be able to handle the acute exposure.





Before Wash

1. Handle dirty clothing with gloves.
2. Throw away clothes soaked with pesticides. Do not try to clean them. When in doubt, remember that residue may contaminate your washing machine.
3. Leather items cannot be laundered. Discard these items to avoid being exposed every time you wear them.
4. Shake clothing outside if you worked with pesticides that are granular, dust, or powders. Check pockets and cuffs for pesticide particles.
5. Keep the clothing in a closed plastic bag outside of your home until you are ready to wash them. Keep the bag away from pets and children.



During Wash

1. Wash clothing as soon as you can.
2. Separate clothing with pesticide residue from the family laundry to avoid contaminating other clothes.
3. Wash only a few items at a time and use the highest water level.
4. Use hot water - the hotter the better.
5. Use heavy-duty laundry detergent.
6. Double rinse or re-wash if needed.
7. Laundry additives such as chlorine bleach or ammonia DO NOT help.
8. They do not improve removal of pesticide residues.



After Wash

1. Remove any leftover pesticides from the washer by running an "empty load" through the complete cycle with hot water.
2. Line dry, if possible. Sunlight breaks down many pesticides and it can prevent residues from collecting in the dryer.
3. If you have to use a dryer, run it until the clothes have completely dried.



Reduce Pesticide Exposure

SWAG BAG



After applying pesticides-

1. Wash your hands
2. Remove clothing that came in contact with pesticides and place it inside of the yellow bag.
3. Wash your hands

Follow these steps BEFORE:

- getting in your vehicle
- entering your home
- hugging or touching your friends or family
- eating or drinking

Always bring a change of clothes with you to the worksite. If available wear a mask, eye protection, long sleeves, pants, tall socks, and closed-toe shoes that are not porous.

Remember- if it can hurt pests, it can hurt you too.

Side effects can happen fast but sometimes they won't show up until months or even years later.

PESTICIDE/CHEMICAL SAFETY CHECK

General Information

- Yes No — Pesticides are stored out of reach of children
- Yes No — Current, on-site pesticide inventory
- Yes No — Emergency telephone numbers are posted

Pesticide Containers

- Yes No — Containers marked with purchase date
- Yes No — Insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides are segregated
- Yes No — Pesticides are stored in original containers
- Yes No — Labels are legible and attached to containers
- Yes No — Container and bags caps are tightly closed
- Yes No — No reused pesticide containers present
- Yes No — Pesticides are stored off of floor and low to ground
- Yes No — Feed is stored separately from pesticides
- Yes No — Used containers are rinsed and punctured
- Yes No — Rinsed and unrinsed containers are separated

Spills & Disposal

- Yes No — Storage area is free of spills and leaks
- Yes No — Shovel and absorbent materials are on hand
- Yes No — Floor drains are sealed (if present)

Safety Information

- Yes No — PPE and Contaminated Clothing Bag is on-site
- Yes No — Safety equipment is separated from pesticides
- Yes No — Fire extinguisher is in good working order
- Yes No — Storage room is locked
- Yes No — Storage site is well lit and ventilated



You can call the Poison Control Center (1-800-222-1222) or visit online at Poison.org if in need of assistance or in case you have additional questions.

Sources:

1. "Pesticide Exposure." NASD, nasdonline.org/1745/d001726/pesticide-exposure.html.
2. "Safe Use Practices for Pesticides." National Pesticide Information Center, npic.orst.edu/health/safeuse.html.
3. <http://npic.orst.edu/faq/dirtyclothes.html>

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www.swagcenter.org