

Pesticide



SAFETY

#1 PESTICIDES PROTECT FROM PESTS

You've been hired to pull the tassels, or the flowering part of corn plants, from certain rows of corn plants. We'll talk more about that later.

Since you will be working in corn fields where pesticides may have been used, we're going to spend some time this morning talking about **pesticide safety**.

Pesticides are chemicals which are used to help grow crops by protecting them from damage caused by insects, diseases, or weeds.

You will also find pesticides used around your home, your lawn, or in your garden OR on your dog to kill his fleas.

There are different types of pesticides. Pesticides which kill or repel insects are called insecticides. Pesticides which kill weeds are called herbicides. Pesticides which control diseases are called fungicides.

#2 - WHERE PESTICIDES MAY BE FOUND IN THE FIELDS

You will be working in cornfields in which a pesticide may have been applied at some time. Pesticides can be applied in several ways; including as a liquid, spray, powder, or granule. Since many pesticides can stay active for days or even weeks after being applied, you may be exposed to these chemicals when working in the field.

Depending on the kind of pesticide and how it was applied, traces of pesticide may be found on the leaves or corn plants, in the dirt or soil, in irrigation water, on irrigation equipment, or drifting in the air.

If a pesticide was applied within 30 days prior to you entering a field, your employer is required to provide you with safety training, information about pesticides used in the field, a place to wash pesticide off you skin, and transportation to a hospital if you need it.



#3 - INFORMATION AT A CENTRAL LOCATION

Information about the pesticides which have been applied (within the last 30 days) to the field you're in should be displayed at a central location so that you or your crew leader can have this information available to you. This information may be on your bus or in storage tube on one end of the field, probably near where your bus parks.

The information provided will include:

1. The name, location, and telephone number of the nearest medical facility.
2. A pesticide safety poster.
3. The name of the pesticides applied and their EPA registration numbers.
4. The location and description of the areas treated.
5. The date and time of each application.
6. The restricted-entry interval (REI).

Ask your crew leader where you can find this information.

The image shows a bulletin board with a brown border and a light-colored background. The title "Pesticides Applied" is centered at the top. On the left side, there is a poster titled "PROTECT YOURSELF FROM PESTICIDES" with the text "Pesticides may be on plants and soil, in irrigation water, or drift from nearby applications." Below this is a "DANGER RESPONSE" poster with the text "DANGER RESPONSE TAKE PRECAUTIONS". At the bottom left of the board is a card with a red cross icon and the text "Nearest Medical Facility". To the right of the posters are five rectangular cards with horizontal lines for writing, arranged in two rows. The top row contains three cards labeled "Date of Application", "Location", and "Pesticides". The bottom row contains two cards labeled "EPA Registration Number" and "Active Ingredients".

#4 - THE POSTED WARNING SIGN



If you see this sign, **DO NOT ENTER** the field.

Your employer is required to have this sign posted if a field has been recently treated with a pesticide.

This sign tells you that it is not safe to enter the field unless you are wearing special protective clothing.

Once it's safe to enter the field, this sign will be taken down.

So remember, if you see this sign, **DO NOT ENTER** the field!!!

#5 - AVOID HANDLING PESTICIDES

If you see any pesticide containers in the field or along the road:

"HANDS OFF!"

The container may look empty, but can contain pesticide residues or small amounts of concentrated pesticide.

Do NOT pick up or carry empty pesticide containers, and do NOT ever take them home.

Pesticides can be in these types of containers:

1. One-gallon or 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ - gallon plastic jug,
2. A heavy-duty paper or plastic 20-to-50-pound bag, or in a
3. 50- gallon drum.



#6- ROUTES IN WHICH PESTICIDES CAN ENTER THE BODY.

You need to protect yourself from exposure to pesticides.

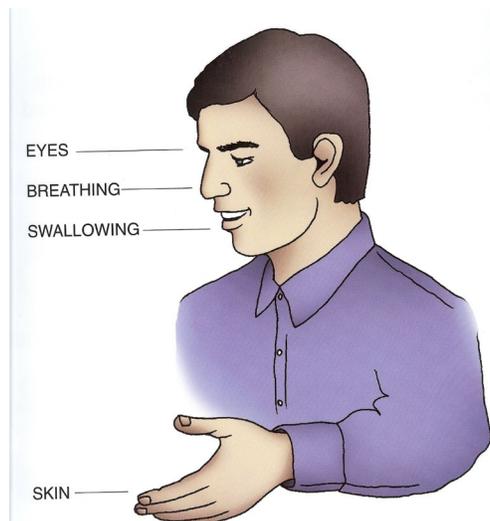
Do you remember where pesticides can be found in a cornfield?

- Answers:
- on corn leaves
 - in the dirt
 - in irrigation water
 - on irrigation equipment
 - in the air

When you touch corn leaves or the soil, or if pesticides are being applied nearby, you could be exposed to pesticides.

Pesticides can get into your body by:

- being absorbed through your skin or
- can get in your eyes by rubbing your eyes with your hand, or
- they can enter your body through your mouth when you eat something after touching your food with contaminated hands or
- by breathing particles of pesticide that are in the air

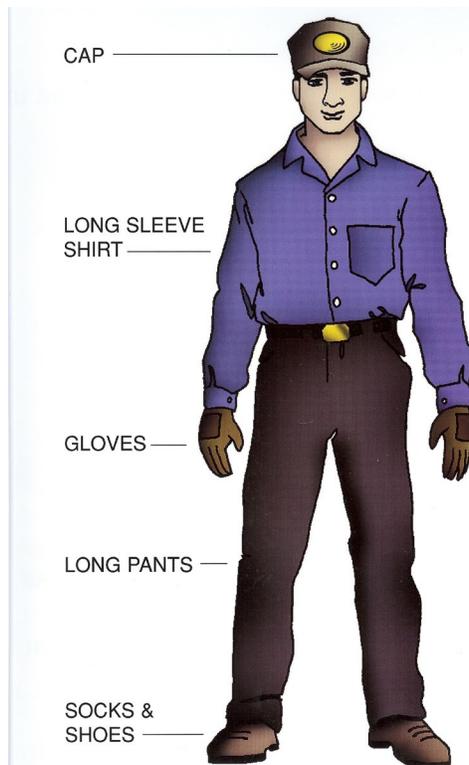


#7 - WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING

You can greatly reduce your exposure to pesticides by wearing clothing that covers your skin, such as:

1. A hat (protects your head and eyes)
2. Gloves (protects hand and skin)
3. Long-sleeved shirt
4. Long pants
5. Socks & shoes

It makes sense that by covering your head, hands, arms, and legs you greatly reduce your risk of being exposed to pesticides while working in the field.



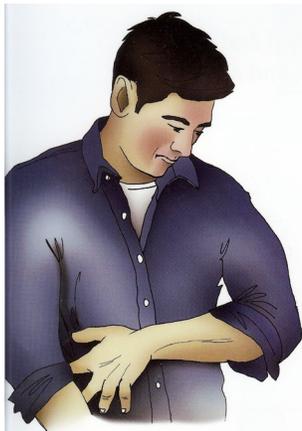
#8 - SIGNS OF PESTICIDE EXPOSURE

If you are exposed to a pesticide, you may become ill.

The signs which show you may have been exposed to a pesticide include:

1. Dizziness
2. Stomach cramps
3. Headache
4. Blurred vision
5. Rashes or burns
6. Irritated eyes

These may also be symptoms of an allergic reaction to pollen, or of heat stress. Some pesticides may cause an allergic reaction after you have been repeatedly exposed to them.



9 - DECONTAMINATION STATION

Gangwish Seed Farms must provide a place for you to wash off. A decontamination site must have these three things:

1. Water
2. Soap
3. Paper towels

If you are experiencing signs of pesticide exposure, it's important to clean your skin. Use the nearest source of clean water or the supplies at the decontamination site to wash yourself off. Your bus will have supplies available for you to wash if you experience a sign of exposure.

Please remember that we as a company go to great lengths to make sure that none of this ever happens. But we are still required to inform you of these precautions.



#10 - EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

If you feel sick, tell your crew leader. If you become ill from being exposed to a pesticide, your employer is required to provide assistance.

Don't be afraid to tell your crew leader when you feel sick. By law, you cannot be punished for following safety procedures or for asking for help when you suspect you've been exposed to a pesticide.

The symptoms of heat stress are similar to those of pesticide poisoning. If you **feel ill but are not sweaty**, you may be suffering from heat stress. Find a place to sit, rest, drink some water, and try to cool off.

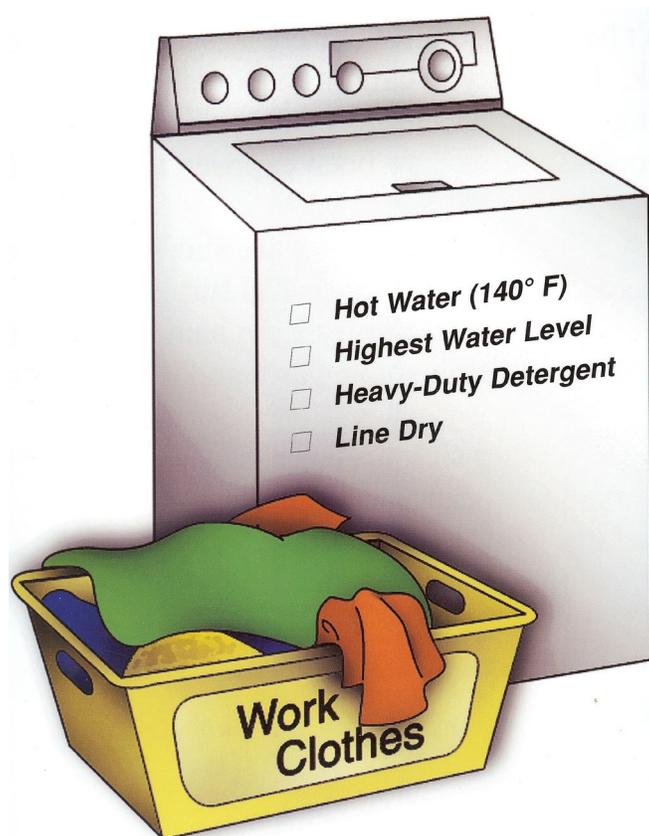
#11 - WASH CLOTHES SEPARATELY

Every day after work you should wash your clothes in order to remove any pesticide residues which may be on them. This would include washing your ball cap and cloth gloves, which will absorb chemicals.

Be sure to keep your work clothes separate from the other laundry.

The following steps should be taken in order to wash out any pesticides which may be in your clothing:

- Use **HOT** water
- The temperature should be at least 140 degrees.
- Wash your work clothes separate from the rest of the laundry
- Use the highest water level and heavy duty detergent
- Dry your clothes on the clothesline outdoors. Sunlight can break down some of the pesticide chemicals



#12 - SEED CORN DETASSELING

Detasseling corn can be a very rewarding experience, but it can also be very hard work, and you need to pay attention. Be aware of your surroundings and of the things which could possibly harm you.

Gangwish Seed Farms Inc. is interested in your safety. We will provide you with the pesticide information you will need, with a place to clean up at the field and take you to a medical facility if you need it.

As for you, what are some things we talked about that you can do to protect yourself from exposure to pesticides?

- Answers:
- wear appropriate protective clothing
 - wash up at the beginning of breaks
 - have clothes, gloves, and hat laundered daily
 - notify a crew leader of any illness
 - leave a site if a pesticide is being applied to the field or to a nearby area and the pesticide can be felt or smelled
 - never pick up empty pesticide containers