

Pesticides



Pesticides help the farmer by eliminating agricultural pests. But they are poisons and can injure or kill people. If you work with pesticides or live near where they are used, **BE VERY CAREFUL!**

Pesticides can enter the body three ways:

1. You can breathe in pesticide fumes or dust.
2. Your skin can absorb pesticides.
3. You can swallow pesticides.

Symptoms: Be sure you know the signs of pesticide poisoning.

- rashes
- dizziness
- heavy sweating
- difficulty in breathing
- stomach cramps
- blurred vision
- nose bleeds

If you have been poisoned by a pesticide, you are likely to show three or more of these symptoms. The signs usually appear the same day.

What to do

- If you get pesticide on your skin, wash at once.
- At the first sign of pesticide illness, tell your boss.

- Ask for the name of the pesticide.
- Go to a doctor quickly and tell the doctor the name of the pesticide.

Prevention

Most cases of pesticide poisoning could have been prevented with care. Here's what you can do.

If fields near you are being sprayed:

- Go inside and close doors and windows.
- Keep children, pets, and toys inside during the spraying.
- Do not hang laundry where pesticides can be sprayed on it.

If you must work where fields have been sprayed:

- Check with the boss and watch for signs to be sure fields are safe. **DON'T WORK IN A FIELD THAT IS BEING SPRAYED!**
- Wear protective clothing.
- **DO NOT** eat, drink or smoke in a sprayed field.
- When you leave a sprayed field, wash your hands before eating or smoking.
- Wash work clothes separately from the family wash.

Be careful with pesticides

- Teach children to wash fruits and vegetables from the fields.
- Keep all pesticide containers away from children. Empty or full, they are dangerous!

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- **DON'T USE EMPTY PESTICIDE CONTAINERS FOR FOOD OR DRINKING WATER.**
- Don't put pesticides in unmarked containers or in food or drink bottles. Mark containers that contain pesticides.

REMEMBER:

Pesticides can hurt and even kill you! If you have signs of pesticide poisoning, see a doctor at once! ■