

Pesticides & You

Do you work with or around pesticides?

Pesticides are used to kill or control insects, weeds, mice, and things that grow on plants and food. They also get rid of bad odors and germs in the air, on walls, and on floors.



DURING WORK:

- Wear clothes like long-sleeved shirts, long pants, shoes, socks, hats and scarves to keep you from getting insect and weed killers on your body and hair.
- If you mix, load or apply insect or weed killers, cover your nose, face, hands, and feet.
- Ask about how to use insect or weed killers safely—FOLLOW all the safety warnings.
- Ask about the insect or weed killers that you used and those used in the area you work.
- Stay out of areas where the insect or weed killers were applied—OBEY the signs that say "KEEP OUT, NO ENTRY."
- If insect or weed killers get on you while you are working, LEAVE THE AREA, tell someone, and TAKE A SHOWER.
- Do not eat fruits and vegetables from the fields before washing them.



AFTER WORK AND AT HOME:

- After work, ALWAYS wash your body and hair with soap and water.
- When you can, do not leave work in your work clothes.
- When wearing your work clothes, do not hug others or play with your children.
- ALWAYS change from your work clothes to clean clothes.
- DO NOT wash work clothing with the rest of the family clothes.
- ALWAYS wash your work clothes before wearing them again.
- Leave your work tools at work or outside your home.
- NEVER take insect or weed killers or their containers home from work.
- DO NOT use insect and weed killers from work in your home.



OTHER HELPFUL TIPS

- If you get sick and think it may be from insect or weed killers, go to the nearest clinic, emergency room or your doctor.
- If you think that you are pregnant, ask your doctor if it is safe to work where pesticides are used.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the Pesticide Exposure Surveillance and Prevention Program at: (850) 245-4277 or toll free, 1-800-606-5810. Visit the website: www.myfloridaeh.com/community/pesticide/

For medical assistance for any suspected poisoning, please call the Poison Control Center's toll free number at 1-800-222-1222.