

## Handle Pesticide-Stained Clothes With Care

Double-check laundry procedures before tossing pesticide contaminated work clothes into the washer. Such garments need special attention.



Key steps in cleaning pesticide-contaminated clothing:

- Discard clothing containing concentrated pesticides.
- All clothing worn while handling or applying concentrated or diluted pesticides is contaminated.
- Keep contaminated clothing separate from other laundry.
- Handle all contaminated clothing with waterproof gloves.
- Wash clothing daily, soon after use.
- Pre-rinse or pre-soak and/or pre-treat all contaminated clothing.
- Use a hot water wash and a cold water rinse.
- Use a heavy-duty laundry detergent.
- Wash only a few items at a time.
- Use the longest wash cycle, at least 10-12 minutes.
- Multiple launderings remove more of the pesticide residue from clothing.
- Line dry.
- After washing is completed, clean washer by running machine through a complete cycle with detergent and hot water, but without clothing.

Materials adapted by Ellen I. Burton, Extension Educator, Consumer and Family Economics, University of Illinois Extension, February, 2001 from:

**Guides for Laundering Clothes Soiled with Pesticides**, University of Illinois Extension, Marge Sohn, Extension Specialist, Textiles and Clothing, 1994.

**Pesticide-Contaminated Clothing Needs Washing Care**, Ohio State University Extension Fact Sheet, Textiles and Clothing, Judith A. Wessel, Joyce Smith, Norma Pitts, 1994.

**What to do when clothes are soiled with pesticide**, Iowa State University, University Extension, Janis Stone, Professor and Extension Textiles and Clothing Specialist, 2000.