



May 22, 2009

PLAY IT SAFE

Clothing worn during pesticide application can become contaminated, endangering the health of the wearer as well as others who might come in contact with the clothes or pesticide. Using proper laundering procedures can help avoid re-exposure to the applicator or exposure to other family members. Contamination can occur with any pesticide formulation — liquid, granular, or powder.

To reduce potential exposure to pesticide residues during an application, always wear the appropriate personal protective equipment and clean, uncontaminated clothing.

So what about an applicator that just uses the low toxicity Roundup® herbicide. To get you thinking about it, consider the following. In the most comprehensive Agricultural health survey of over 89,000 certified pesticide applicators and farmers' spouses in Iowa and North Carolina there was one area of concern being studied further. Glyphosate (herbicide) used by 75 percent of the male farmers surveyed had no increased risk of prostate or lung cancer, so that is really good news.

However, a follow-up is needed on one type of cancer called multiple myeloma (plasma cells, involved with immune system and the body's ability to fight infections and diseases). References to this are at Lynch et al., *Environmental Health Perspective*, 114:1248-1252, 2006; DeRoos et al., *Environmental Health Perspective*, 113:49-54, 2005 and Rusiecki et al., *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, 96:1375-1382, 2004.

To reduce your exposure to chronic exposure after the application, remove clothing immediately upon finishing the job. When possible, wash contaminated clothing immediately. Otherwise, store it separately from the family's laundry and wash it separately. Even when you aren't aware of potential contamination, don't wear those same clothes the next day. Wash pesticide-contaminated clothing daily.

When washing contaminated clothing, use the following suggestions:

- * Wash only a few items at a time and do not mix with regular laundry.
- * Use liquid detergent.
- * Use hot water and the highest water level on the regular wash cycle.
- * After washing, remove clothing from the machine and run the empty washer through another cycle with hot water and detergent before laundering other clothing.
- * Line dry the clothing, if possible, or use the regular dryer setting.
- * If clothing is too heavily soiled with pesticides, dispose of it. This includes pesticide saturated



shoes and boots.

Always follow the label for proper disposal instructions. Keep the following number handy. In case of a pesticide emergency, contact The Poison Center (for aid in human poisoning cases) at (800) 222-1222 or The National Pesticide Information Center at (800) 858-7378.

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