

After the mixing-loading task has been completed, your responsibility continues:

1. Securely close pesticide containers immediately after use. Return unused pesticide to its proper storage.
2. Clean up all spills, no matter how small the amount.
3. Wash mixing and loading pails, measuring devices and stirring equipment or tools in strong detergent water, rinse in clear water, store to air-dry.
4. Wash your personal protective equipment in detergent, rinse and hang to air-dry.
5. The wash and rinse water used in steps 3 and 4 can best be disposed of by pouring it into the spray tank. Don't overflow the spray tank, so that there will be room for the rinse water.
6. Remove your clothing and launder separately with heavy-duty liquid detergent and hot water. **DO NOT USE BLEACH** as it could cause a dangerous chemical reaction. Line-dry the clothing where it is exposed to sunlight.
7. Take a hot shower, using a detergent-type soap. Don't forget to wash your hair. Put on clean clothing.

Application

When applying pesticides, you are not generally exposed to the same high concentration of pesticide as during the mixing and loading operation. However, the time-length of exposure is much longer, thus the cumulative exposure may be equal to or greater than during the mixing-loading operation.

Pesticide applications are made with everything from hand sprayers and dusters, to irrigation equipment, large airblast grove sprayers and aircraft. Whatever equipment is used, many of the safety precautions are the same. These include:

1. Read and follow the label. Applications made which vary from label requirements are a violation of federal law.
2. Use the correct equipment, and make sure it is properly maintained and adjusted. Screens, strainers and nozzles should be clean and functioning properly. Nozzles should be of the right type and properly adjusted and all lines, valves, seals should be checked for leaks.
3. The application equipment should be accurately calibrated on a regular basis. When-

ever you have any suspicion that the equipment is applying an inaccurate amount, recalibrate it. Your operator's manual should provide information on calibration of the equipment. Additional information is available through your county's Cooperative Extension Service.

4. Wear the proper protective clothing and equipment.
5. Check the weather forecast frequently to determine if conditions will be favorable for the application and effectiveness of the pesticide. The National Weather Service provides a continuously updated weather forecast for Florida via VHF/FM channels WX1 (162.550 MHz), WX2 (162.400 MHz) and WX3 (162.475 MHz).
6. Avoid spraying near sensitive areas where drift could damage neighboring crops or the environment. When spraying must be done in these areas, attempt to spray when the air is still, humidity is high and any potential drift will be away from sensitive areas.
7. Lower pressures, proper boom and nozzle adjustments, larger nozzle size and drift-reducing additives (if the label permits) will reduce drift.
8. Do not make field adjustments to the sprayer in a recently sprayed, still-wet area. Move to an unsprayed area.
9. Never attempt to clean a nozzle, screen or hose by blowing or sucking on it with your mouth. Use small soft-bristle brushes and/or an air pressure bulb for these purposes.
10. Always empty a tank by spraying the **entire** contents onto the vegetation or other area for which it was intended. Never drain a spray tank onto the ground. Important: Never mix more than you need!

Pesticide and Pesticide Container Disposal

Major problems exist in the disposal of pesticides and pesticide containers. These are: the disposal of excess quantities of mixed pesticides, disposal of rinsates, the disposal of unwanted quantities of obsolete, deteriorated or unwanted pesticides, and the disposal of containers.

Mixed Pesticides

Excess mixed pesticides can be used **only** for a use which is approved on the pesticide's label. The best solution to this problem is to not mix more than needed. However, there are times when the spray job is complete and a quantity of spray re-