

**DANGEROUS GOODS**

# Care with Pesticides

This information bulletin has been designed to assist in the safe handling of Pesticides and the procedures to be undertaken in the event that poisoning occurs.

## Protective clothing and equipment

Making up spray mixtures is dangerous as it involves handling the concentrated material. With toxic compounds use a suitable respirator and goggles to protect face and eyes and wear protective clothing such as overalls, hat, gloves and boots. Don't let your respirator get contaminated.

When using concentrated sprays, full protection is necessary.

When using diluted sprays, wear at least a hat, long-sleeved cotton overalls and boots. If you use pesticides regularly it is a good idea to always wear a respirator to avoid a build up effect. Other protection may also be required - check the label.

Use pesticides with care.

## Pesticide poisoning

Pesticide poisoning can happen in four ways:

- **by absorbing it through the skin** - the most common way. If pesticide is spilled on the skin or in the eyes, wash immediately - with plenty of water.
- **by swallowing the pesticide accidentally** - because pesticides have been stored carelessly, children have accidentally swallowed them. Storing pesticides in food or drink containers is extremely dangerous and illegal.
- **from contaminated food or water** - poisoning can occur by eating contaminated food or drinking or bathing in contaminated water.
- **by breathing it in** - inhaling sprays or dust into the lungs can cause illness. Inhaling the smoke or fumes from burning empty containers can also cause illness, in animals as well as humans.

After handling organophosphate or carbamate insecticides, if you develop or feel the following symptoms:

- headache
- giddiness
- chest pains
- nausea blurred vision
- sweating or drooling
- pin point pupils
- stomach cramps

You may be suffering early symptoms of poisoning. Go to your doctor for a blood and/or urine test immediately.

## Immediate treatment

If accidental contact with pesticide occurs: Immediately remove contaminated clothing - do not spread the contamination. Then wash contaminated skin with plenty of soap and water and watch for the symptoms described under "Danger Signs".

If pesticide splashes into the eye, flush with clean water for at least 15 minutes, then go to the doctor. **Do not** add anything to the water.

Mind-readers are not common. If you feel sick, tell someone.

Do not let people suffering from poisoning go to the doctor alone. Take them; they may not make it alone.

*NT WorkSafe gratefully acknowledge NSW Agriculture for permission to reproduce portions of Care with Pesticides on the Farm and Orchard.*

**For further information please contact NT Worksafe on 1800 019 115 or go to [worksafe.nt.gov.au](http://worksafe.nt.gov.au)**