



- Wash splashes on skin immediately with plenty of water.
- Anything that gets splashed with pesticides that cannot be thoroughly cleaned (e.g., leather belts or work boots etc.) should be contained away from other clothing and when disposed of, disposed of properly.
- Wash reusable PPE according to manufacturer’s instructions at the end of each workday and only in a dedicated decontamination area separate from other laundry.
- PPE used for pesticides should only be used for that purpose.
- Wash hands and exposed skin before eating, drinking, using tobacco, chewing gum, applying cosmetics or using the toilet.
- Have a dedicated knife or scissors that is only used for opening pesticide bags.
- Always read and follow the product label.

Avoiding complacency when mixing and applying pesticide products

While mixing and applying pesticides is common on many Canadian farms, becoming complacent, particularly with regularly used products, is a risk that can pose significant hazards. Most incidents occur during mixing/loading and preparation for application when products are concentrated and containers are open. That’s why taking the time to assess and identify potential risks before mixing and application is essential for the safety of everyone — both humans and animals — on the farm.

As a pesticide product label is a legal document that must be followed, always closely follow the label directions for mixing and spraying. If you are unsure about anything, contact the product manufacturer — do **not** guess.

Important safety precautions to take when mixing and spraying pesticides include:

- Have a designated location for mixing pesticides that is well-ventilated and away from any water sources with a spill kit available.
- Wear protective eye wear and keep containers below eye level when mixing to avoid splashing the product into your eyes, and never use your teeth to open a container or your mouth to siphon liquids.
- Conduct a jar test using the correct WALES mixing order in a safe and ventilated area before combining different pesticide products to ensure compatibility. (Again, avoid guessing and contact the product manufacturer if you are unsure how to do this.)
- Always check equipment before spraying to ensure there are no leaks or damage, and carefully inspect equipment while cleaning after application.
- Use a “buddy system” when spraying so that another person can monitor for signs of adverse health effects.
- Do not apply during periods of dead calm and avoid application when winds are gusty.
- Take into consideration wind speed, wind direction, temperature inversions, application equipment and sprayer settings.
- Spray in the same direction as the wind to make sure the spray drift is away from you and anyone else.
- Avoid getting any spray drift onto neighbouring lands, homes and water sources.
- Have a source of clean water available on or near the field during application in case of unexpected incidents like spills.
- Follow the specified waiting time (re-entry interval or REI) between pesticide applications.

