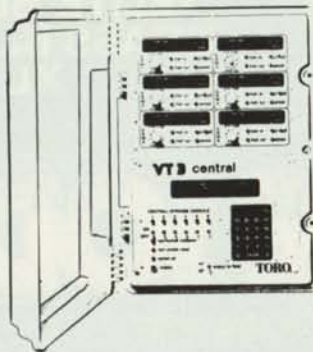


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CLEANING CONTAMINATED CLOTHING

Pesticides are great for getting rid of unwanted weeds and insects, but they aren't very good for humans. Chemicals are frequently spilled during mixing, and it is sometimes impossible to keep them from drifting back on the operator during application. Because pesticides can enter the body through the skin, proper care in the laundry room is vital.

A recent study by researchers at Iowa State University, Ames, showed that normal laundering is sufficient to remove 99.8 to 99.9 percent of the chemicals. Sample fabrics consisting of heavy cotton denim and a polyester/cotton blend chambray were contaminated with Atrazine, a herbicide, and Thimet, an insecticide, then washed and dried using normal household procedures.

Clothing worn while applying pesticides should be kept separate from other clothing and washed daily, using the following procedure:

1. Store contaminated clothing in a plastic bag to await laundering or put them directly into the machine after they are removed.
2. Use hot water, 140 degrees Fahrenheit, with the machine set for normal or full water level.
3. Add recommended amount of heavy-duty phosphate-based detergent.
4. Dry the clothes thoroughly in an automatic dryer at the regular fabric setting.
5. Make sure no pesticides are left in the washer by running the empty machine through the complete laundering cycle, using detergent.

Forefront