

Playing It Safe With Chemical Mixing

Keep this checklist of safety reminders handy the next time you are preparing chemicals for mixing.

Summer is one of the busiest times of the year. With all the pressures of the job, it is easy to overlook safety precautions when handling chemicals.

The following checklist is a reminder that you can never be too busy to remember proper safety habits. Keep the list handy the next time you are handling chemical mixtures.

Read the label carefully. Take particular notice of personal safety and environmental precautions.

Wear appropriate personal safety equipment when handling chemicals.

When mixing and loading chemicals in the field, ensure that you prevent spills that might contaminate water supplies.

Prevent spray-tank overflow by never leaving the tank unattended.

Never exceed labeled chemical

rates, mix carefully and calibrate your sprayer before applying chemicals.

Prevent having leftover chemicals by mixing only the quantities you need.

Never rinse equipment near well-heads, ditches, streams or other water sources. If needed, install a longer rinse-water hose to allow you to move the cleaning operation to a safe distance from the well.

Before disposing of chemical containers, triple rinse or pressure rinse them. Then, pour the liquid into the spray tank.

Dispose of equipment and container rinse-water by spraying it out over the soil following label instructions.

Remember Personal Safety

- Wear rubber gloves.
- Use goggles or face shields.
- Wear a wide brim hat, long sleeve shirt, long pants and rubber boots or shoe covers.

- Keep a supply of clean water handy and wash your hands before eating.

- Check labels for additional precautions.

The right mix.

When preparing your tank mix recipe, it's wise to take a few moments to prepare a record of the following items:

- The order in which to mix the products
- Prescribed rates for each product
- Capacity of the spray tank
- Amount of mix to be applied
- Types and rates of any additives
- Acres covered per tank
- Types of nozzle you plan to use
- Nozzle pressure in pounds per square inch (psi)
- Tractor speed, this information, along with the location, type of turf-grass and date of product application, will help provide you with an important record and handy reference.

The Grim Payoff for Not Washing: Contamination by Pesticide Migration

You just wore your protective equipment a little while, and it looks pretty good. Why not wear it once more before washing?

The logic may sound good, but pesticide build-up is not necessarily the problem.

In the case of rewearing contaminated clothes, pesticide migration is the deadly enemy.

Once you wear the protective clothing, pesticide residues that remain are likely to continue to move

slowly through the material of the clothing, even material that is chemical resistant.

If you wear it again before washing it, the pesticide may have moved to the inside, next to your skin.

Even pesticides that are not highly toxic can have a harmful build-up effect.

The experts say don't take a chance. Wash protective clothing after every use, however brief.

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