

# Cleanup Clues —

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- Rinse twice with warm or hot water, if possible.
- After laundering your protective clothing, run the machine, unloaded, through a complete wash cycle with hot water and detergent.
- Line-dry your protective clothing, preferably outdoors. Using a dryer may eventually leave pesticide residue in the machine.

Now, here are some “don’ts” to keep in mind when cleaning contaminated clothing:

- If you spill a fairly large amount of concentrated pesticide—especially an emulsifiable concentrate—on an article of clothing that is not resistant to chemicals, don’t wash it. Remove the article immediately, place it in a plastic bag, and dispose of it according to the pesticide label directions.
- Don’t use a laundromat or a commercial laundry service to wash contaminated protective clothing.
- If possible, don’t allow contaminated clothing to dry before your pre-wash rinsing.

The Environmental Protection Agency’s Worker Protection Standard, which affects all farms, nurseries, greenhouses and forestry operations, contains specific minimum provisions for cleaning protective clothing and for informing those laundering your protective clothing of the potential hazards of pesticide residues (WPS, 40 CFR Part 170,240, Personal Protective Equipment).

The Worker Protection Standard sets the following specific guidelines:

- Any employer of pesticide handlers (the term “handlers” includes applicators) must ensure that all personal protective equipment is cleaned according to the manufacturer’s instructions or pesticide labeling instructions before each day of use. If there are no instructions, the equipment must be washed with hot water and detergent.
- Equipment that can’t be cleaned, or clothing drenched or heavily contaminated with undiluted pesticide that carries the word “Danger” or “Warning”, may not be reused and must be disposed of properly.
- Employers must ensure that contaminated protective clothing and equipment are stored and cleaned separately from other articles.
- Employers must ensure that clean personal protective equipment is dried thoroughly before it is put away, that the articles are kept separate from other personal clothing and that they are not stored in a pesticide-contaminated area.
- Employers must inform anyone who cleans or launders protective equipment and clothing that the articles may be contaminated with pesticides, and must inform them of the harmful effects of exposure to pesticides.
- Employers must instruct employees doing the cleaning or laundering in the proper procedures, including how to protect themselves when handling contaminated articles.
- Employers must provide a clean place to store personal clothing, and to put on and remove protective clothing and

equipment.

- Employers may not allow or tell any pesticide handler to wear home or take home any personal protective equipment or clothing contaminated with pesticides.

After you’ve made a pesticide application, pay close attention to properly cleaning and disposing of pesticide containers, and cleaning and laundering personal protective equipment and clothing. By following careful procedures, you will help make your golf operation safe—and legal—for yourself and your employees.

—American Nurseryman

## The Pros & Cons of Closed Systems

Closed systems for applying pesticides usually work only with liquid formulations, but some handle dry formulations. Closed systems often open containers automatically, drain or pump the product out, and rinse the container. The rinsate is then drained or pumped into the spray tank.

Closed systems increase handler safety and can reduce the need for personal protective equipment, as well as the chance of spills. Also, because measurements tend to be more accurate in a closed system, you’re less likely to use too much or too little of the pesticide, and this can save money.

There are several disadvantages to closed systems, however. They are complicated and, initially, somewhat expensive. Some don’t allow you to use only part of the product, and some don’t allow resealing of a partially empty container.

Also, some closed systems are unable to handle a range of container sizes or styles.

In addition, closed systems may not be useful for some pesticide formulations or for the scale of your course operation. They are most useful for growers who use large quantities of pesticides.

## GCSAA San Francisco Hotel Rooms Available Through NST

For those planning to attend the 66th GCSAA Show & Conference in San Francisco in February, it’s none too early to make your hotel reservations. As in past years, North Star Turf has secured a block of rooms in conjunction with the event.

A limited number of rooms remain available at the Sir Francis Drake for those interested. The newly renovated Drake is conveniently located seven blocks from the Moscone Center near Union Square. Contact Dan Miller or Joe Campbell at North Star Turf, 612/484-8411, for more information.