

HOW DO I WASH OUT PESTICIDES?

Dan is a farm worker. Ever since Dan started his new job applying pesticides, his work clothes smelled like chemicals.



Amanda, Dan's wife, was starting a load of laundry when she noticed a strong chemical odor. She was a little worried about washing his work clothes with the family laundry.



Amanda asked her doctor how to wash pesticides out of Dan's work clothing.



The specialist provided these options to reduce risk:

- Separate his clothing from the family laundry.
- Throw away clothes soaked with pesticides.
- Wash work clothing each day.
- Pre-rinse contaminated clothing.
- Wash only a few items at a time.
- Use hot water - the hotter the better.
- Use heavy duty laundry detergent.
- Laundry additives do not improve pesticide removal.
- Line dry, if possible. Sunlight breaks down many pesticides.
- Run an "empty load" through a complete cycle with hot water when you are done.



Amanda was happy with the information. She kept NPIC's number handy for any additional questions.



National Pesticide Information Center
1.800.858.7378 <http://npic.orst.edu>

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