



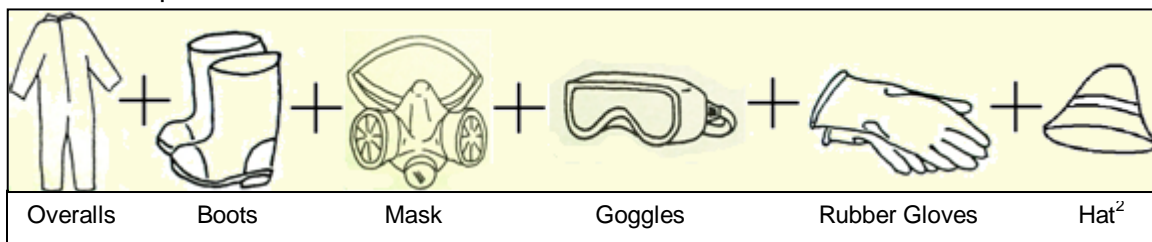
# Pesticide Safety – PPE

## What is Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

Personal protective equipment is gear that is worn to help prevent pesticides from entering or getting on to the body. Often pesticide residues aren't easily seen if mixed with lots of water or if in the form of tiny drifting droplets. For this reason covering as much of the body as possible with PPE is essential in order to prevent pesticide exposure. Always check pesticide labels for required PPE before using pesticides.

## Examples of PPE?

The minimum protective clothing needed for most low-medium hazard pesticides are:



Pesticides may not be easily seen by the unaided eye. PPE helps prevent exposure<sup>1</sup>

## PPE Tips

1. Bring pant legs over boots to prevent pesticide runoff entering boot.
2. If spraying ground wear sleeves over gloves, if spraying over head tuck sleeves into gloves.
3. Use duct tape to seal areas that pesticide may enter including any rips or tears in coveralls, gloves, etc.
4. Have clean water near by to wash pesticides off in case of body contact.
5. Stop working if exposure to pesticide occurs. Wash off, and remedy how pesticide made contact before resuming work.
6. Avoid cotton and leather clothing and gloves because they can soak up pesticides and wick towards the body. Leather is also difficult to properly clean free from residue.
7. Use an additional waterproof apron or waterproof coveralls when mixing pesticides.



Mixing PPE<sup>3</sup>

Prepared by Frank Zalom, Pat Thompson, Mark Henderson and Mark Bell, July 2009

**References:** Pesticide Safety for Small Farms, UC ANR Pub. 21555

The Safe and Effective Use of Pesticides, UC ANR Pub. 3324

**Photo Credit:** <sup>1</sup>International Potato Center, <sup>2</sup>Pesticide Safety for Small Farms, UC ANR Pub. 21555, edited by Mark Henderson, <sup>3</sup>The Safe and Effective Use of Pesticides, UC ANR Pub. 3324

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