

Reduce Agricultural Pesticide Exposure in Children

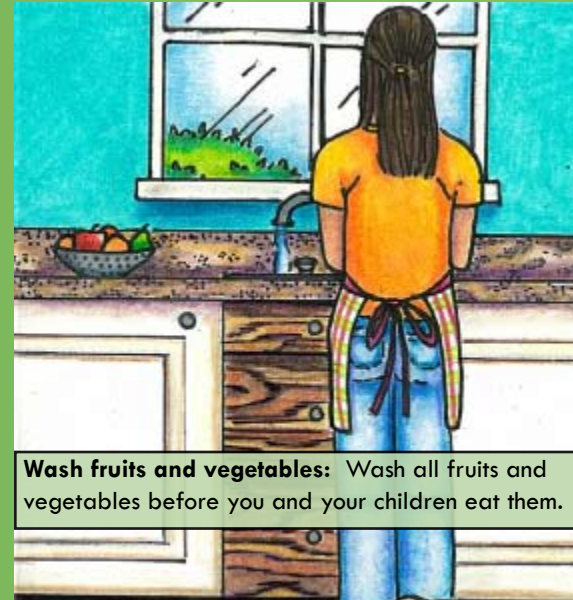


Prevent contact with children: After working in the field, do not touch, carry or hug your children until you have washed your hands and face, changed your clothes, or taken a shower.

Remove work shoes and potentially contaminated clothing before entering the house: Keep work shoes and work clothes outside of the house!



Wash clothes separately: Wash your clothes separately from other family members' laundry, especially children's. Use hot water to wash your clothes. Wash your clothes before you use them again.



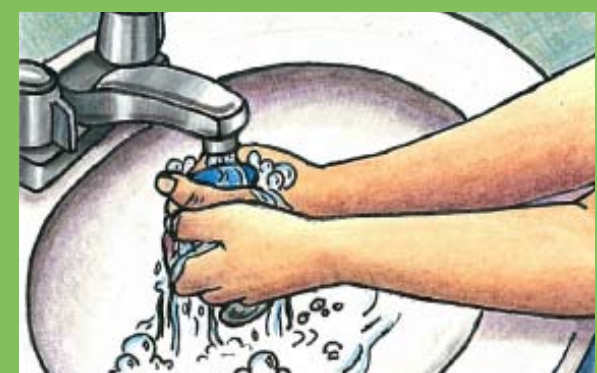
Wash fruits and vegetables: Wash all fruits and vegetables before you and your children eat them.



Keep floors clean: If you have carpet inside your home, vacuum frequently and wash the carpet at least once a year. Mop the floor with water and detergent to remove possible pesticide residues.



Protect children's toys: Cover toys that are outside when a pesticide is being applied nearby, and wash them with soap and water before using them.



Wash your hands: All household members should wash their hands frequently with soap and water, particularly before eating. This is especially important for children.



Protect Children of Farm Workers' from Exposure to Pesticides

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Protect your Children!

Reduce agricultural pesticide residues in home environments

There is increasing concern about how occupational pesticide exposure can adversely affect the health of farm workers, and especially their children. If pesticide exposure can be harmful to adults, imagine the potential impact to children. Agricultural pesticides are among possible pollutants that can be found in home environments. Scientists report that agricultural pesticide residues have been detected on floors, carpets, windowsills, and in dust and debris that can collect in farm worker home environments.

Effects from exposure to pesticides can be greater in preschool-aged children (two to six years old) because, relative to their body weight, children eat more food, drink more water and breathe in more air than adults. They are also less able to rid their bodies of contaminants or reduce the toxicity of pollutants.

Children crawl around and engage in activities that are on, or closer to, floors and often eat things they find on floors. They also wash their hands less and engage in more hand to mouth activity.

Farm-worker parents usually pick up their children on their way home from the agricultural fields, possibly exposing the children to pesticide residues that may be found on their parents' skin or work clothes.

Children can be exposed in three ways:

- **Absorption:** through the skin and touching
- **Breathing:** through the nose or mouth
- **Ingestion:** through the mouth, when eating or drinking.

Nine Steps to Reduce Agricultural Pesticide Exposure in Children



Keep children out of agricultural fields: Children should only be allowed to play in safe places like schools and child care centers. Do not allow children to play in agricultural fields.

Keep pesticide containers away from your house: Do not bring agricultural-use pesticides or their empty containers to your house. Empty containers contain pesticide residues.