

- Children should not apply pesticides
- Persons not involved should not be in the field during application
- Follow the label instructions for applying pesticides and ask for advice if you do not understand them
- Do not use leaking or defective equipment
- The application equipment should be inspected and assembled properly
- Calibrate your sprayer so you are certain that you apply the correct amount
- Be aware of the wind direction and do not stand downwind when spraying
- Do not apply pesticides when it is raining
- Keep people and animals out of freshly treated crops
- Do not use your mouth to blow the knapsack nozzles if blocked
- Avoid walking through sprayed foliage
- At a minimum, wear long pants, long-sleeved shirt, goggles and rubber gloves to reduce your exposure. Read the label and wear the listed protective clothing and equipment when spraying
- Personal hygiene is extremely important when working with pesticides. Do not eat, drink, smoke or touch the face or other bare skin with your hands or gloves used in handling chemicals
- After handling chemicals be sure to wash your face and hands properly before eating, smoking or going to the toilet

*(continues on the back cover)*

## AFTER APPLICATION

There is the risk of hazardous exposure to pesticides after its application. Great care is therefore of utmost importance during all the post-application steps, such as cleaning equipment, disposal of containers and handling of contaminated working clothes

### Remember:

- Carefully wash the application equipment after use
- Application equipment should be washed separately from other equipment
- Never rinse pesticides down the drain. Rinse water can be reapplied to the field
- Wash working clothes separately from other clothes
- Take a shower and use soap
- In case of skin exposure, wash for several minutes with copious amounts of fresh, running water and soap
- Respect the re-entry period
- Be sure to store unused pesticides safely

### Read our other related guidance:

- Safe storage, transport and disposal of pesticides
- Safety and health in the use of hazardous chemicals at work



Duke Place, Level 4 & 5  
50-54 Duke Street, Port of Spain  
For Further Information:  
Tel: (868) 299-0300 Fax: (868) 623-5905  
OSHA HOTLINE: 623-OSHA (6742)  
[www.osha.gov.tt](http://www.osha.gov.tt)



# Safe Handling and Application of Pesticides

A guide for small - scale operators



OSHA HOTLINE: 623-OSHA (6742)  
[www.osha.gov.tt](http://www.osha.gov.tt)

## SAFE HANDLING AND APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES

The Occupational Safety and Health Act Chapter 88:08, places a responsibility on all employers and self-employed persons to ensure that the safety and health risks to themselves, their employees, third party interests and members of the public, arising or in connection with work carried out, are suitably and sufficiently managed. This includes all work activities and therefore, using pesticides on your farm holding is no exception.

## SAFE MIXING AND LOADING



When mixing pesticides, remember:

- Handling of pesticides before application should only be done by suitably trained persons.
- When using personal protective equipment, ensure that it is done as specified on the label or accompanying leaflet
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions before loading the application equipment. The type of equipment used depends on the area to be treated and the form in which the pesticide is applied.



- Mix only the amount you need to do the job
- Mix outdoors or in a well-ventilated area
- Know what to do in case of an emergency
- Keep children and pets out of the area where pesticides are being mixed and inform nearby persons to keep a safe distance
- Avoid leaking and spillage, but if it happens be ready to clean the area immediately. Don't wash spill away. Sprinkle spills with sawdust or sand; sweep the mixture into a plastic garbage bag and dispose of as recommended in the accompanying leaflet or the Chemical Safety Data Sheet (CSDS)



- Never measure or pour concentrated pesticides without suitable gloves, even if the quantities seem to be very limited
- Do not eat, drink or smoke during mixing or loading
- If you repack or transport pesticides to other containers, ensure that they are suitably and adequately labelled
- Never use bare hands to scoop or to mix pesticides
- Many pesticides can be mixed and used together, but ensure that only appropriate pesticides mixtures are prepared. Remember to follow directions provided with each product
- Ensure that an emergency supply of fresh water is available for washing yourself in case of an accident

## SAFE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES

When applying or spraying pesticides, remember:

- Only suitably trained persons should be allowed to apply pesticides