

Update on Pesticide Label Personal Protective Equipment Information

EPA Chemical Resistance Category Chart

For use when PPE section on the pesticide label lists a chemical resistance category.

The Worker Protection Standard requires that labels of pesticides used on farms, and in forests, nurseries, and greenhouses list the type of personal protective equipment (PPE) that must be worn with each product. Labels will refer to chemical resistance categories (A-H) for PPE. Items in these categories are made of materials that the pesticide cannot pass through during the times indicated below the chart. Choose the category of resistance that best matches the handling task duration. The categories are based on the solvents used in the pesticides, NOT the pesticides themselves. Therefore, there will be instances where the same pesticide with two different formulations (wettable powder- WP and emulsifiable concentrate - EC, for example) will require PPE from two different chemical resistance categories.

	Types of Protective Fabrics							
	Barrier Laminate	Rubber				Poly ethylene	PVC ≥ 14 mils	Viton ≥ 14 mils
		Butyl ≥ 14 mils	Nitrile ≥ 14 mils	Neoprene ≥ 14 mils	Natural ≥ 14 mils			
A*	high	high	high	high	high	high	high	high
B	high	high	slight	slight	none	slight	slight	slight
C	high	high	high	high	moderate	moderate	high	high
D	high	high	moderate	moderate	none	none	none	slight
E	high	slight	high	high	slight	none	moderate	high
F	high	high	high	moderate	slight	none	slight	high
G	high	slight	slight	slight	none	none	none	high
H	high	slight	slight	slight	none	none	none	high

HIGH: Highly chemical-resistant. Clean or replace PPE at end of each day's work period. Rinse off pesticides PPE at rest breaks.

MODERATE: Moderately chemical-resistant. Clean or replace PPE within an hour or two of contact.

SLIGHT: Slightly chemical-resistant. Clean or replace PPE within ten minutes of contact.

NONE: No chemical-resistance. Do not wear this type of material as PPE when contact is possible.

Adapted from: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/safety/workers/equip.htm>; as updated July 6, 1999.

*(a dry and water- based formulation)