Fogging and misting using space sprayers

Respiratory protective equipment

Workplace and access
- Fogging and misting is common in food preparation areas, in warehouses, animal housing and garden centres.
- Clear the treatment area of people before starting work. Keep the area vacated for at least 30 minutes.
- Display warning signs.

Design and equipment
- Ensure the sprayer works properly, without leaks.
- Wear respiratory protective equipment (RPE) unless the instructions for use state that this is unnecessary.
- Never decant treatment fluid into an unlabelled container.
- Never re-use a treatment fluid container. Dispose of it safely - not by burning.
- Don’t store more than 50 litres of flammable liquid indoors. Use a flammables store.
- You need washing facilities for decontamination after handling products.

Procedures
- Contractors using pesticides should have a British Pest Control Association (BPCA) qualification.
- If possible, buy products in a ready-for-use solution.
- Store products containing chemicals securely in a cool, dry, dark place, capable of keeping in spills. Don’t store far more than you need.
- Read the instructions on labels carefully - follow the instructions for use.
- Close doors and windows, and turn off ventilation systems before starting the treatment.
- Start work furthest from the exit and work towards the exit. Keep RPE on until you have left the treatment area.
- Avoid contact with surfaces until they are dry.
- Clean up spills promptly - practise how to do this.
- Consider what information you need to give to clients.

Special care
- Contact with many chemicals can lead to skin soreness, itching, rashes, and blistering (dermatitis). Some can also damage the eyes.
- Some products may cause asthma - check the safety data sheet.
- Seek special advice if you spray products containing enzymes - see Further information.

Maintenance
- Follow instructions in maintenance manuals.
- Keep equipment in effective and efficient working order.
- Wash out the equipment after use. Dispose of this waste liquid safely.
Examination and testing
✓ Make sure that users examine their RPE thoroughly and test that it works properly every time it is used.

Cleaning and housekeeping
✓ Deal with spills immediately - absorb liquid spills. This needs coveralls, respiratory protection and single-use gloves.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)
✓ Follow the instructions on product labels.
✓ Ask your safety-clothing supplier to help you get the right PPE.
✓ Respiratory protective equipment (RPE) is needed. Make sure respirators have an Assigned Protection Factor (APF) of 10 or more, and are CE marked. Seek advice from your RPE supplier.
✓ Replace RPE filters as recommended by the supplier. Throw away disposable RPE after one use.
✓ Make sure you know how to check that RPE fits correctly. Seek advice from your supplier.
Keep RPE on until you have left the work area.
✓ Wear protective gloves - single-use nitrile gloves are acceptable. If you must use latex gloves, use only 'low-protein, powder-free' gloves.
✓ Throw away single-use gloves every time you take them off.
✓ Use protective goggles to protect eyes.
✓ Wear a hooded coverall - cotton or porous polypropylene is probably the best material.
✓ Skin creams are important for skin protection and help in washing contamination from the skin. These are not 'barrier creams'. After work creams help to replace skin oils.

Health advice
✓ Ask your workers to check their skin for dryness or soreness every six months. If these effects appear, check the proper use of skin creams and PPE.
✓ If you use a product labelled ‘may cause sensitisation by skin contact’ or ‘may cause sensitisation by inhalation’, seek specialist advice. See Further information.

Training
✓ Show your workers this sheet and check that they understand it.
✓ Tell them about the risks of using the product - see product labels or Section 15 of the safety data sheet from your product supplier.
✓ Ensure training includes how to keep exposures low, how to use and look after PPE and RPE, and what to do if something goes wrong.
✓ Train workers on how to tell clients about the risks.
✓ Make sure everyone knows how to clear up spills promptly and safely.
**Further information**

- The selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective equipment: A practical guide HSG53 (Second edition) HSE Books 1998  **ISBN 0 7176 1537 5**

- Assessing and managing risks at work from skin exposure to chemical agents: Guidance for employers and health and safety specialists HSG205 HSE Books 2001  **ISBN 0 7176 1826 9**

- Preventing dermatitis at work: Advice for employers and employees Leaflet INDG233  HSE Books 1996 (single copy free or priced packs of 15  **ISBN 0 7176 1246 5**)

- Health and safety consultants: the BOHS Faculty of Occupational Hygiene keeps lists of qualified hygienists who can help you. Contact BOHS on 0133 229 8087 or at www.bohs.org/

- Occupational health professionals: details of doctors and nurses can be found in the Yellow Pages under ‘Health and safety consultants’ and ‘Health authorities and services’. Also visit the NHS website at www.nhsplus.nhs.uk

---

**Employee checklist**

- Is the treatment area vacated?
- Look for signs of leaks, wear and damage.
- Check that your RPE works properly every time you put it on.
- If you find any problems, tell your supervisor. Don’t just carry on working.
- Wash your hands after use, and before and after eating, drinking, smoking and using the lavatory.
- Clear up chemical spills promptly. Absorb liquid spills in granules and dispose of them safely.
- Use and store your protective equipment according to instructions.
- Throw away single-use gloves every time you take them off.
- Check your skin regularly for dryness or soreness - tell your supervisor if these symptoms appear.
- Use skin creams provided as instructed.

---

**COSHH essentials:**

- easy steps to control chemicals
- October 2003

Printed and published by the Health and Safety Executive