

Chemical & Pesticide Use



Chemicals are important inputs in many farms. Handle all chemicals carefully to avoid any accidents or produce contamination.



Handling chemicals and pesticides

Handle all chemicals carefully



Handle all cleaning chemicals and pesticides carefully. Always store them away from produce, containers, and packaging material.

Anyone who applies chemicals must complete a chemical user course (e.g. ChemCert).

The best way to ensure you meet the maximum residue levels (MRL) is to follow all chemical label instructions.

Only purchase pesticides from approved chemical resellers with the full instructions and safety label intact. Never purchase second-hand or unlabelled pesticides.

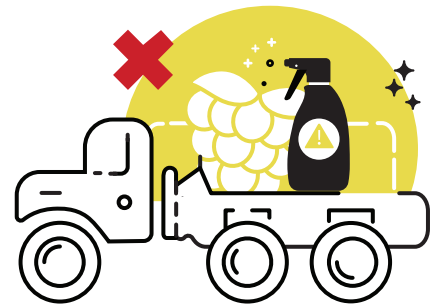
Wear protective clothing and equipment (e.g. gloves, safety glasses, long trousers, long sleeves, boots, hat, etc.).

Transporting food and chemicals

Never transport pesticides with people, food, or animal feeds.

The pesticide storage area must be properly identified, lockable, and away from children, animals, and water sources. It must provide a way of containing any spills or leaks. It must be well ventilated and must have enough light.

Calibrate the sprayer at least annually to ensure it will spray the right amount of pesticide.



Never transport pesticides and food together

Application and record keeping



Record all chemical applications

Ensure the water used is town water quality (free of dangerous microbes).

Pesticides must be applied exactly as indicated in the product label or permits. Do not spray pesticides during windy conditions, or when it is raining.

Every time you apply pesticides, follow the re-entry and safety instructions. These include what protective clothing and equipment you must use, and the minimum time you must stay away from the field.

Do not harvest any product until all withholding periods have been met. The withholding period is the minimum time that must pass between applying the pesticide and harvesting the produce.

Take a shower immediately after washing and storing the sprayers.

Keep records of all applications including date, location, the pesticide used, rate of application, the quantity applied, weather conditions, and name of operator. Refer to the Traceability Guide for more information.