

PestSure Safety

INSURING THE FUTURE OF PEST CONTROL

Tips

A five-minute training Series for Pest Management Professionals.

Backpack Sprayer Safety

Backpack sprayers are useful equipment for applying chemical over relatively small areas. Typically, backpack sprayers hold from four to six gallons of mixed water and chemicals and therefore, fully loaded sprayers weigh from 35 to over 50 pounds. Safe and effective use of a backpack sprayer is dependent upon the training an employee receives when they are issued this equipment.

Pre-Use Activities

- Thoroughly review and understand information provided in the backpack sprayer operator's manual with particular attention given to descriptions of safety procedures.
- Before using, always inspect the backpack pesticide sprayer tank for damage or disrepair and make sure sprayer hoses, regulator, wand, and nozzle(s) are clean and functioning properly. Pay particular attention for leaks from the sprayer and attachments.
- If a backpack pesticide sprayer fails the pre-use inspection, notify your supervisor and remove the sprayer from service by tagging it out.

Operating Precautions

- Always wear appropriate personal protection equipment, including eye protection, chemical-resistant gloves, and coveralls and when necessary, chemical-resistant clothing and a respirator.
- Follow instructions on the pesticide label when mixing pesticides for use in a backpack sprayer.
- Due to the weight of a loaded backpack sprayer, be careful when walking or bending. Look where you are stepping and always bend at the knees.
- Due to their inherent hazardous nature, never use flammable liquids, acids, or caustic chemicals such as bleach in a backpack sprayer.
- Relieve sprayer tank pressure through the shut-off valve and spray wand before adjusting the pressure regulation valve or control knob.
- Apply pesticides at the rates recommended by the manufacturer.
- Never point the spray wand in the direction of people or animals.
- Spray tanks, hoses, regulator, wand, and nozzle(s) shall be rinsed thoroughly after each use.

Following use, store the backpack pesticide sprayer out of direct sunlight to prevent ultraviolet radiation damage.

Information for this Safety Tip was taken directly from: "Safety Note"
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