

Health and Safety Recommendations for Indoor Pesticide Applications in Horticultural Settings

- **Follow Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices.** If chemical agents are needed, select those least likely to harm your health.
- **Read the pesticide label.** Always follow mixing, application and safety directions.
- **Avoid over-spray.** Applying more pesticide than needed can increase your exposure.
- **Use adequate lighting while spraying.** Adequate lighting reduces trip hazards and over-spray, and makes it easier to visually communicate with fellow workers.
- **Leave gas-fired compressors outdoors when spraying.** Gas-fired compressors produce carbon monoxide. Operating a compressor inside a building can quickly cause carbon monoxide poisoning.
- **Follow the label for use of personal protective equipment (PPE).** Use duct tape or other methods to seal areas where two pieces of PPE meet (e.g. tape gloves to the sleeve of protective coveralls).
- **Change clothing worn beneath PPE before going home.** No PPE is fully protective. Launder your clothing at work or place in a plastic bag and launder separately at home. Shower before leaving work if possible.
- **Wear your respirator properly.** Check to ensure a proper face-seal each time you put it on. Each respirator manufacture provides instructions on how to do a “user-seal check.”
- **Know the location of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).** Keep MSDSs handy in case of an emergency – especially when spraying after normal work hours.



If you would like more information about these recommendations, contact the NYSDOH, Bureau of Occupational Health at 1-800-458-1158, ext. 2-7900.