
WASHING CONTAMINATED CLOTHING

Objective: Decrease the likelihood of negative effect from chemical exposure.

Concept: Even when personal protective equipment (PPE) is used properly there is a possibility that clothes underneath could be exposed to chemicals. It is important to not transfer this residue to other family member through the wash. By washing it with other family clothing you may be transferring the chemical residue. Chemicals are not visible by sight and difficult to be removed from clothing.

Targeted Age: Adolescence

Materials:

- ▶ 1 pair of dark colored jeans
- ▶ 1 pair of dark colored socks
- ▶ Talc powder
- ▶ A large bowl of clear water

Liberally dust the jeans with talc powder and rub it into the fabric. Ask him/her to “wash” out the jeans in the bowl of water. Show the participants the resulting water – it will appear cloudy. Give the volunteer the socks and ask him/her to “wash” it in the same water. Explain that the water transferred the pesticide residue in the water to the socks. This is what can happen when family members’ clothes are washed after PPE clothing is washed. Adults are responsible for laundering chemically contaminated clothing.

