



## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Removal and Decontamination

*Note: The **bold** text provides guidance regarding touching dirty PPE parts with dirty gloves and/or clean PPE parts with clean gloves during the removal process.*

Step 1: Rinse the entire PPE suit with a hose or shower head to remove as much pesticide residue as possible.

Step 2: Before removing the respirator or goggles, remove the hood or hat by grabbing it from the contaminated outside part - **Dirty Gloves ► Dirty Hood or Hat**

Step 3: Carefully remove goggles by grabbing them from the outside part and pulling them forward and up - **Dirty Gloves ► Dirty Goggles**

*Note: Wearing dirty goggles while removing coverall or other PPE parts can reduce vision and increase risk of potential contamination.*

Step 4: Take off the respirator by grabbing it from the canister or cartridges and gently pulling it forward and up - **Dirty Gloves ► Dirty Cartridges**

*Note: Removing the respirator by pulling it forward and up is easier and more practical than unhooking the respirator straps.*

Step 5: Take off the jacket in two steps:

- Carefully unbutton or unzip the jacket without touching the clothes underneath - **Dirty Gloves ► Dirty Outside Jacket**
- Once the jacket is unbuttoned, wash gloves and jacket sleeves up to the elbow with soap and water. Remove the jacket by grabbing it from the clean sleeves or inside. **Clean Gloves ► Clean jacket sleeves and inside**

Step 6: Remove the pants in four steps:

- Unhook straps and place them inside pants – **Clean gloves ► Clean straps**
- Roll down the top part of the pants – **Clean gloves ► Clean Top Part of Pants**
- Using a support to maintain balance, use one foot's toe to help the other foot slide out of the boot. Pull out the pant leg from that foot and boot by grabbing the pants by the clean insides - **Clean Gloves ► Clean inside pant legs**
- Return foot back into the boot - **Clean glove ► Clean top part of the boots**
- Repeat procedure for other foot

Step 7: With boots and gloves still on, either wash and dry goggles and put them back on or wear clean safety glasses or goggles. While wearing these three items (boots, gloves and eye protection), proceed to the next step.

Step 8: Wash respirator using the following steps:

- Remove cartridges and pre-filters
- Discard pre-filters
- Discard cartridges, or wipe those cartridges with less than 8 hours of use with a wet towel. Dry them and store in a sealable plastic bag.
- Take apart respirator and wash the parts in soapy water with a soft sponge.  
*Note: A brush is too harsh on the respirator.*
- Rinse off the respirator parts.
- Dry respirator parts with single-use towels. Dry headbands with single use towels or, when possible, hang them up to air dry.
- Inspect, reassemble, and store in a separate sealable plastic bag. *Note: Store respirator separate from used cartridges.*
- Store respirator in a cool area in a locker or rubber container.

Step 9: Wash PPE suit (outside/inside) on a flat surface:

- Using a brush, scrub side-to-side with soapy water to minimize splashing contaminated water onto your cloths or body.
- Rinse under running water.
- Hang to dry in a clean area.
- Store in a pesticide-free area.

Step 10: Wash boots while wearing them.

*Note: Boots are washed after washing all PPE items taken off earlier.*

Step 11: Remove and wash goggles with soap and water using a soft sponge.

Step 12: Wash gloves:

- Wash outside of gloves while still wearing them.
- Remove gloves and wash the inside using a brush, water and soap.
- Fill the gloves with water and check for any holes.

Inspect all PPE parts and replace or repair if necessary. Move to a pesticide free zone. Take off your boots and put on your shoes.

*For more information on this 12-Step process, contact Ofelio Borges at (509) 249-6939.*