



Tips for Minimizing Physical Drift

–Reading label precautions can lower chances of off-target injury to sensitive plants. The chief

factors contributing to physical drift are beyond our control. Wind velocity and direction, relative humidity, temperature, and atmospheric stability or inversions all contribute to off-target movement of chemicals during spraying.

Common sense and good judgment go a long way in determining when vegetation managers can safely apply herbicides. Here are some safe-use tips for minimizing physical drift:

- ✓ Always follow application directions and adhere to warnings stated on each specific herbicide label.
- ✓ Avoid treating near crops or other plants that may be affected when wind speeds average more than 5 mi./hr., or wind gusts above 10 mi./hr.
- ✓ Eliminate fine spray droplets (less than 100 microns in size) by selecting proper equipment and using it correctly.
- ✓ Use a buffer zone, or time the application, to effectively protect sensitive crops or plants.
- ✓ Consider the time of day. Apply herbicides during the early morning, evening, or night hours when air movement is typically still or slight, temperatures are coolest, and relative humidity is lower.
- ✓ Use spray adjuvants, surfactants, or other additives to make sure that the herbicides you apply reach and stay on their intended target.

Information taken from Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook -

Kootenai County does not discriminate against individuals or groups on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment in, its public meetings, programs, or activities. Requests for assistance or accommodations can be arranged by contacting the Noxious Weed Control Department at (208) 446-1290 or County Administration Office TTY (208)446-2145 with 3 days advance notice.

SAFETY CHECKLIST

1. **READ AND FOLLOW THE PESTICIDE LABEL – it is the law!** – each time before using the pesticide. Always wear the specified protective clothing and equipment.
2. Keep children and unauthorized people away from where pesticides are being mixed, loaded, applied, or stored.
3. Keep your equipment clean, calibrated, and working properly.
4. Mix pesticides outdoors.
5. Measure materials correctly for recommended rate.
6. Always apply pesticides under appropriate weather conditions – and avoid drift.
7. Carry an adequate quantity of clean water on or with your application equipment for use in washing eyes and skin in case of emergencies.
8. Cover feed and water containers when treating around livestock or pet areas. Avoid contaminating fish ponds and water supplies.
9. Multiple-rinse empty containers (at least three times) until clean before disposing of them.
10. Never leave pesticides unattended or unsecured in a truck, field, or operation site.
11. Store pesticides properly – in a correctly designed and maintained storage site, secured, and only in the original container, tightly closed.
12. After handling pesticides, always wash thoroughly *before* you eat, drink, smoke, or use the restroom.
13. If pesticides spill or splash on you or your clothing, immediately remove clothing, wash with soap and water, put on clean protective clothing, and clean up the spilled material.
14. Plan ahead. Know the first aid listed on the label.

SAFE USE TIPS FOR HERBICIDES



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SAFE USE TIPS FOR HERBICIDES



Toxicity – is a material's ability to cause injury. Everything can be toxic, even coffee, salt and water.

What causes a substance to be harmful are exposure and dose. Exposure is the amount and period of time an herbicide touches the skin; dose is the amount penetrating the body. Herbicides won't penetrate your skin easily. If you wash your hands after applying herbicides and shower at the end of each workday, the herbicides you may have contacted can be removed.

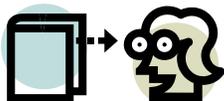


Clothing – Check the herbicide label for exact clothing requirements. Wear long-sleeved shirt and long pants, or coveralls. Chemical-resistant gloves (rubber or latex) must be worn when prolonged or frequently repeated contact may occur. They are important when mixing concentrates, loading spray equipment, rinsing and handling drums, and during hand applications. **Don't wear leather, cloth, or paper gloves.**

Wear rubber or vinyl boots with socks. Don't wear tennis shoes or sandals. If you wear leather shoes or boots, waterproof them with a good sealant. Leather absorbs the herbicide and is difficult to wash out.

There is potential for getting the herbicide in your eyes, protect them with goggles or a face shield; when mixing or spraying herbicides, always protect your eyes.

Wear a hat – protecting your hair and scalp reduces your chance for exposure.



READ THE LABEL – it contains information that tells how to use the herbicide safely and effectively. It tells how to dress, how to mix and handle, and first aid instructions.



Mixing – provides the most opportunities for exposure. Keep containers below eye level when opening to protect yourself from splashes. Stand with your head well above the spray tank's fill hole when pouring herbicides into it. Replace pour caps and close all containers securely when finished pouring. Do not stir herbicides or retrieve anything from the tank with your hands. Keep the fill hose above the water level in the tank at all times to prevent the herbicide from back siphoning into your water supply. You can find inexpensive anti-flow devices that prevent this. When cleaning or calibrating nozzles, wear gloves and eye protection. **Don't use your mouth to clear a clogged nozzle.** All empty containers must be triple-rinsed before disposal. Take care to avoid splashing the rinse solution while shaking the containers. Carefully pour the rinse water into the batch tank. Don't rush through the mixing process; spills often happen when you're in a hurry.



Spraying – Always walk in and spray out; working away from the treated areas instead of spraying ahead and walking into the mist and wet vegetation. Direct spray away from people, including yourself, and minimize overhead spraying.

Be sure your equipment functions properly before each use and make necessary repairs. Check that all connections are tight and hoses have no cracks. Replace equipment you can't repair.

Over-pumping backpack sprayers can cause the seal to blow on the pump and allow herbicides to leak down the back of the operator's clothing. If this happens, change your clothes immediately and wash before wearing again. Repair or replace the leaking equipment before further use.



Washing and Hygiene – After applying herbicides, wash your hands and face before you eat, drink, smoke, or chew tobacco. You need to wash even though you've been wearing gloves. Keep your eating, drinking, and smoking activities away from the mixing and application areas.

Treat your work clothes as you would any heavily soiled clothing by washing them separately. Keep them away from other family members' clothes. For best results, be sure your clothes are pre-soaked before washing them in a tub or washer. Your work clothes should be washed in HOT water, using the longest wash cycle, and using a heavy-duty detergent. For oil-based formulations, use a heavy-duty liquid detergent.

Head for the shower and use lots of HOT, soapy water. Shampoo your hair well and clean under your fingernails, you'll remove herbicide residues and reduce your chances of ingesting a dose.

Tip: If you've used a dye to help mark where you've sprayed, and have some on you, try shampoo. It works great!