such as “precautionary statements” or “hazards to humans and domestic animals.” The minimum protective clothing is often stated on the label, but you can opt to wear additional items to increase protection. Use common sense to decide what additional clothing to wear.

**Before using any pesticide, READ AND FOLLOW THE LABEL!**

**When to Wear PPE**
Protective clothing and gear should be worn from the moment you start handling the pesticide product, including when:

- opening the container,
- mixing or diluting the pesticide,
- attaching the pesticide container to a water hose,
- applying the pesticide,
- cleaning up after applying,
- disposing of pesticide waste, and
- coming into contact with freshly treated surfaces.

**Cleaning PPE**
After completing pesticide application and cleanup:

- Wash rubber gloves or boots before taking them off.
- Remove (as soon as possible) the clothing worn during application.
- Launder the clothing separately from other items, so that any pesticides do not spread to other clothes.
- Wash any exposed areas on yourself, or shower, to ensure no residue remains, especially if pesticides were spilled on the clothing.
- Be careful not to come into contact with the treated area after removing the protective clothing, at least until the pesticide has dried. Review and follow the product label directions for re-entry to treated areas.
- Do not use PPE for other purposes, such as reusing gloves for washing dishes.

**Brochures in this series are:**

#1 Why Manage Pests?
#2 IPM in and around Your Home
#3 Understanding Pesticide Product Labels
#4 Home Pest Management and Children
#5 Water Quality and Home Pesticide Use
#6 Protective Clothing for Handling Pesticides

They are available from the NYSDEC, Bureau of Pesticides Management, Albany, NY, or the DEC regional offices. Visit the NYSDEC website, http://www.dec.state.ny.us/
Protective Clothing for Handling and Using Pesticides
for Homeowners and Apartment Dwellers*

Why Wear Protective Clothing?
It is important to protect yourself from exposure to pesticides when handling and applying them indoors and outdoors. Pesticides designed to kill certain living organisms can also harm non-target organisms, such as humans and pets, if handled improperly.

Pesticides can potentially enter the body via inhalation, ingestion and absorption through:
• skin,
• eyes,
• mouth, and
• nose.
You can help avoid direct contact with pesticides by wearing proper protective clothing and gear when handling them. Remember: pesticides include insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and rodenticides used indoors or outdoors.

Importance of Product Label
The pesticide label will tell you what protective clothing or gear is necessary for the pesticide you are using. Such clothing is sometimes referred to on the label as “personal protective equipment” (PPE), or it may be listed under other headings.

*Note: commercial pesticide applicators may have additional PPE requirements.