



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Why using PPE in locust control

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is important to reduce the occupational risks of handling and applying insecticides in locust control. However, the most important way of protecting oneself against insecticide exposure is to know and respect good application practices. Moreover, spray equipment should be clean and well maintained to avoid leakages and contamination. PPE is only the last line of defence to prevent operator exposure; it does not protect against bad handling and use of an insecticide!

During the campaign planning phase, the necessary PPE must be timely selected and ordered to be available at the start of the control operation. In addition to PPE, other safety equipment also needs to be available for control teams. This includes eye wash kits, water and soap, and antidotes (in certain cases). When ordering PPE, one has to take into account that **all items have only a limited operational life**. For instance, gloves get torn or impregnated by insecticides and overalls will after a while become too contaminated for use, even if properly washed. Sufficient PPE must be ordered and distributed to allow

for such wear and tear. *The items of the PPE kit is indicated below.* Most PPE can be stored for several years, and it is therefore better to order too much of it than too little. The exact types and quantities of PPE required will depend on the type of insecticide used (e.g. its formulation and corrosiveness), the type of treatments carried out (e.g. with vehicle mounted sprayers or backpack sprayers), and the expected intensity of the campaign. It is therefore important that the heads of the control bases keep track of the use of PPE and order new materials in time.

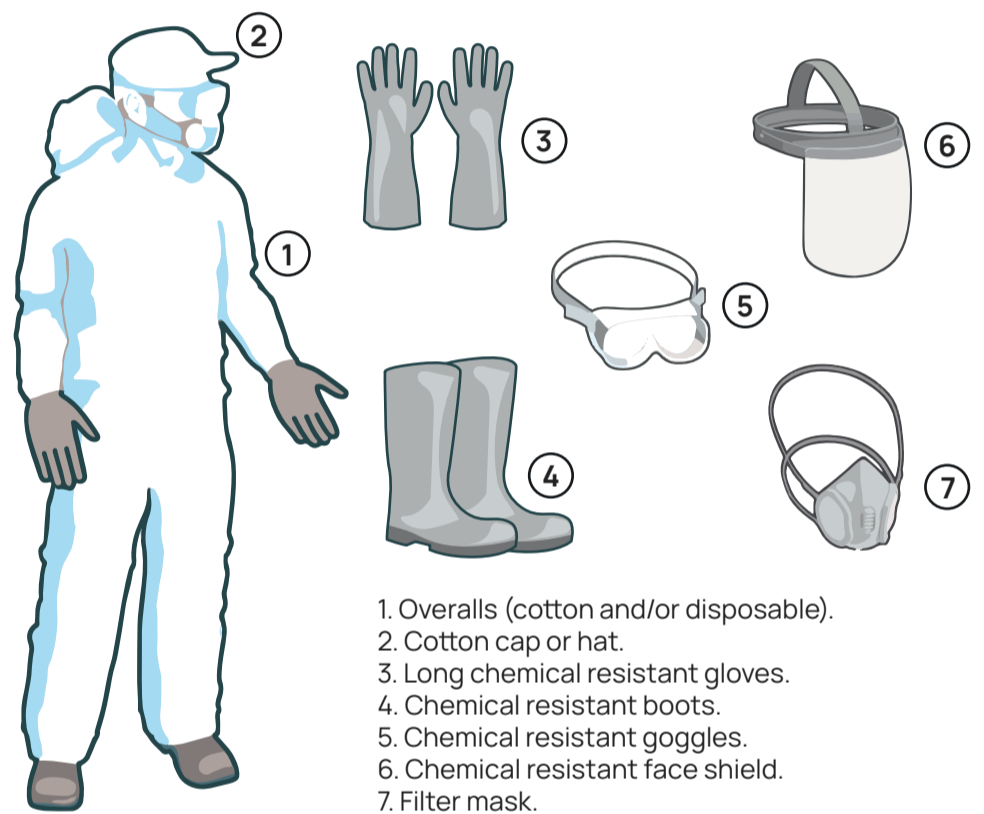
Make sure that you know how to use, store and maintain all items of PPE. Proper use and maintenance of PPE requires training. If you have any questions or doubts about your PPE, ask for clarifications.

Do

- Read the label of the insecticide about the required PPE
- Store all PPE in a dedicated storage box, away from daily clothes, food items or contaminated equipment
- Check the condition of your PPE on a regular basis for cuts, cracks, contamination, expiry dates of respiratory filters
- Clean your PPE at the end of the working day, even if it has not been visibly contaminated with insecticides
- Wash off splashes and light contamination immediately; if needed, temporarily stop the spraying operation to do so
- Replace PPE if it is damaged or heavily contaminated
- Wear full PPE when spraying with an open-cab tractor

Tip

Always carry out a pre-campaign quality check of the PPE that is still in stock. Gloves may have become permeable after prolonged storage and the filters of respirators may have expired.



1. Overalls (cotton and/or disposable).
2. Cotton cap or hat.
3. Long chemical resistant gloves.
4. Chemical resistant boots.
5. Chemical resistant goggles.
6. Chemical resistant face shield.
7. Filter mask.

Don't

- Continue to work with contaminated PPE as it will expose you to the insecticides
- Dispose your contaminated PPE with the household waste
- Touch your face or skin with contaminated hands or gloves
- Eat, drink or smoke during or immediately after handling and applying insecticides

Attention!

Do not economize on the amount and quality of PPE to be purchased. The cost of PPE is very limited when compared to the cost of the insecticides and their application.

