



April 24, 2014 – Updated Guidance

Clean Up Guidance for Lower Levels (Category B) of Chlorpyrifos

This guidance is for owners and residents of properties that have been contaminated by the pesticide chlorpyrifos (CPS). This guidance is specifically for properties with lower levels (Category B) of CPS.

The cleaning method described below represents the best advice of the Vermont Department of Health and the Agency of Agriculture at this time, and may be updated if more information is collected. This advice is offered at the request of homeowners and landlords. The State does not guarantee that these methods will always and completely get rid of CPS residue.

Cleaning Hard Surfaces

This clean up method may be used by a cleaning company, homeowner or resident and is intended for **walls, windows, floors, kitchen counters and other non-porous hard surfaces**. Please contact the Vermont Department of Health for cleanup guidance on surfaces that are **hard but also porous**, such as unfinished wood or concrete. *(This section updated April 2014)*

Materials needed:

Large 5-gallon bucket
Small bucket for rinse water
Trash bag
Lots of disposable, industrial/shop towels
Ultra strength Joy dishwashing liquid
Rubber gloves

Put gloves on before beginning clean up.

Walls, windows, floors, kitchen counters and other hard non porous surfaces:

1. Make the cleaning solution: Dilute the Joy dishwashing liquid by adding 3/4 cup of Joy to 1 gallon water in a 5-gallon bucket.
2. Fill the smaller bucket with plain water for rinsing.
3. Clean the surface in 2 foot by 3 foot (or 1 foot by 6 foot) sections using the diluted Joy cleaning solution.
 - a. Saturate one rag with the cleaning solution.
 - b. Use the rag to wash the section, then put that rag in the trash bag. DO NOT dip a rag that has contacted the surface being cleaned back into the cleaning solution.
 - c. Use a new rag to rinse the surface with plain water from the small bucket. DO NOT re-use the rag. Put that rag in the trash bag.
 - d. **Repeat three times on each 6 square foot section.**

4. Put all the used rags and gloves in the trash bag to bring to the special dumpster at the Rutland County Transfer Station. Pour any leftover cleaning solution or rinse water down the drain ONLY if this cleaning procedure was followed. This means that NO used rags were ever in contact with the cleaning solution or the rinse water.

Do not pour leftover used cleaning solution or rinse water down the drain. If you dipped used rags into the cleaning solution or rinse water, because that water is now considered to be contaminated, please call us for further instructions.

After cleaning walls and other painted surfaces, prime with a coat of latex primer and then apply two coats of latex paint. For previously finished (urethane, or similar) wood surfaces, either prime and paint or apply several coats of urethane.

(This section updated April 2014)

Baseboard heaters:

Clean with diluted Joy, as described above, or remove the metal covers to the heaters and replace the covers with newly purchased covers. Discard the old covers in the special dumpster at the Rutland County Transfer Station.

Stereos, TVs, microwaves:

These items may also be cleaned with diluted Joy as described above.

Mattresses, couches, chairs with soft cushions (“soft goods”)

If a mattress, couch, or chair with soft cushions was treated with CPS, then the foam material may contain CPS residue. If your soft goods were treated with CPS, it is best to dispose of them. These items can be discarded at the Rutland County Transfer Station.

Enclosed you will find a letter authorizing use of the special dumpster and giving instructions on how to dispose of these items.

Carpets, books and sentimental personal items

Carpets, books, pictures, and other sentimental items that were treated with CPS are hard to clean. The only way to really know if cleaning worked is to test the item, and testing would destroy it. CPS is known to break down in sunlight, so it’s possible that placing these things in direct sunlight could get rid of CPS residue. This method is not tested, and we don’t know how well it works. The safest choice may be to throw such hard to clean items out.

Clothes, towels and bedding

If clothes, towels and bedding were sprayed, or if they have a chemical or fuel-like odor, wash them in hot water 2 to 3 times using regular laundry detergent. Do not overfill the washing machine, and use the highest level (full load) of water. Continue washing until the odor is gone. When they are clean, run the washing machine through one cycle with hot water and detergent to clean the machine. The other choice is to throw away affected clothing, towels and bedding.

Follow up & Questions

- To schedule confirmatory testing after cleaning and encapsulating surfaces to be sure CPS levels were lowered sufficiently, call the Health Department at 800-439-8550.

- If you have questions about clean up, call either the call the Agency of Agriculture at 802-828-2431 or the Health Department at 800-439-8550.

For more information and a video example of clean up guidance for lower level (Category B) properties, please go to: <http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/pestcontrol/>