Guidelines for Laundering Pesticide-Contaminated Clothing

All clothing worn while handling or applying pesticides is contaminated!

Handling
Handle all contaminated clothing with gloves

Air
Hang garments outdoors to air

Prerinse
Use one of three methods:
- Hose off garments outdoors
- Rinse in separate tub or pail
- Agitate in automatic washer

Pretreat (heavily contaminated or heavily soiled garments)
Use heavy-duty liquid detergent or a prewash product

Washer Load
Wash garments separately from family wash
Wash garments contaminated with the same pesticide together

Load Size
Wash only a few garments at a time

Water Level
Use full water level

Water Temperature
Use hot water, 140°F or higher

Wash Cycle
Use normal 12-minute cycle

Laundry Detergent
Use a heavy-duty detergent
Use amount recommended on package or more for heavy soil/hard water
[There seems to be no advantage to using bleach or ammonia]

Rinse
Use two, full, warm rinses

Dry
Line dry (to avoid contaminating dryer)

Clean Washer
Run complete, but empty, cycle, using hot water and detergent