

# CLEANING YOUR HAND SPRAYER

## Why Clean Your Sprayer?

**Failure to properly maintain and clean hand tank sprayers causes a variety of problems:**

- Staining of customer property (carpets, furniture) because of grease and mixed pesticides
- Odor problems associated with pesticide products which do not normally have offensive odors
- Clogging of hand tank sprayer
- Illegal mixing of pesticides. (Minor mixing, but important when consumers complain and later file lawsuits over alleged pesticide exposures, illnesses, or property damage.)

When you change from one pesticide to another in a hand tank sprayer at a minimum we are required to triple rinse the tank and run clean water through the hoses.

Wettable powders and micro encapsulated materials can readily cause clogging of screens and small openings, especially if any of the material is allowed to dry inside the tank, hoses, etc.

Emulsifiable concentrates will cause a build up of oily residues over time if the hand tank is not properly cleaned on a regular basis.

Some labels such as Ficom W require that tanks be cleaned and rinsed with a detergent prior to mixing up the product.

## Cleaning Procedures:

1. Fill sprayer with water and add 1/2 to 1 teaspoon of liquid dish soap detergent per gallon
2. Pump some of this mixture through the hose, wand and nozzle. Allow the mixture to soak in the tank.
3. Spray mixture for at least one (1) minute through the hose wand and nozzle. (Spray mixture into your power spray rig, as otherwise the material becomes hazardous waste.)
4. Remove the screen and rinse with clean water.
5. Clean nozzle with a soft brush. (An old tooth brush works well.)
6. Scrub entire sprayer inside & out with a small brush.
7. Completely rinse tank and all other components with clear water, pouring rinse water into your power sprayer tank.
8. Inspect all parts for wear or defects, and replace if necessary.
9. Reassemble and test sprayer using clean water.