

IRRIGATION METHODS

from most to least risky

Most Risky

Direct water application method that results in contact with produce

1 OVERHEAD (sprinkler)

Somewhat Risky

Direct contact with produce above the soil may occur less often than with overhead irrigation.

However, potentially contaminated water could splash onto the produce or widely distribute contamination across the soil, which then would be a hazard to the produce.

2 FLOOD (surface, furrow)

Least Risky

Drip irrigation delivers water through the surface or subsurface of the soil, so direct water contact with produce growing above the soil is minimal.

Root crops or crops growing on the ground can still be directly contacted, so there are still some risks to keep in mind.

3 DRIP (trickle, subsurface, micro)

