

MIDDLESEX COUNTY MOSQUITO EXTERMINATION COMMISSION

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Municipalities are encouraged to share this information with all residents in their community

"DeltaGard"

This Fact Sheet answers some basic questions about mosquito control products in use in your County. The Middlesex County Mosquito Commission, along with several other resources (listed at the end of this sheet), can provide more detailed information.

What is DeltaGard and how is it used?

DeltaGard contains a pesticide called deltamethrin, a member of the category of pesticides called Type II pyrethroids, which are synthetic versions of pesticides produced by plants called pyrethrins. Traditional pyrethroid/piperonyl butoxide mixtures are recommended for Ultra-Low-Volume (ULV) mosquito control in New Jersey by Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Deltamethrin is a Type II pyrethroid, and therefore does not require a synergist such as piperonyl butoxide. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has classified deltamethrin as a reduced risk molecule. It poses a low risk to human health and the environment when used properly as part of an integrated mosquito control program. As formulated in DeltaGard™ adulticide, deltamethrin is considered a non-carcinogen, non-teratogen and non-mutagen.

This Type II pyrethroid-containing product is used for the control of adult mosquitoes. While habitat management and measures to control immature mosquitoes in water are preferred and most commonly used, the spraying of adult mosquitoes is necessary when biting populations reach critical levels or when a disease-causing agent is present in adult mosquitoes. A very fine mist is sprayed into the air since flying mosquitoes must directly contact the pesticide for effective control.

How can I reduce my exposure to deltamethrin?

Because of the very small amounts of active ingredients released per acre, the risk to the general public from the use of Type II pyrethroid-containing products is minimal. Avoiding exposure is always the safest course of action. Any possible exposure risk can be reduced by following some common sense actions:

- Pay attention to notices about spraying found through newspapers, websites, automated telephone messages, or distributed by municipal, county or state agencies.
- Plan your activities to limit time spent outside during times of possible pesticide treatments.
- Move your pets, their food, and water dishes inside during ULV applications. Also, bring clothing and children's toys inside.
- Stay away from application equipment, whether or not it is in use.
- Whenever possible, remain indoors with windows closed, window air conditioners on non-vent (closed to the outside air), and window fans turned off during spraying.
- Avoid direct contact with surfaces still wet from pesticide spraying. Do not allow children to play in areas that have been sprayed until they have completely dried (approximately one hour).
- If you must remain outdoors, avoid eye and skin contact with the spray. If you get spray in your eyes or on your skin, immediately flush and rinse with water.

What are the symptoms of exposure to deltamethrin?

Symptoms of over-exposure can include irritation to skin and eyes. The chance of experiencing these symptoms of over-exposure with proper use is low. You should contact your physician, other medical providers, or the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES) at 1-800-222-1222 if you experience these symptoms following a pesticide spraying.

How long will deltamethrin last in the environment?

The Type II pyrethroid deltamethrin has a half-life of 1-2 weeks in soil and is rapidly adsorbed by sediment in surface water. It is insoluble in water and is immobile in the environment. Deltamethrin is nontoxic to plants and residues are not present after 10 days.

Where can I get more information on this adulticide?

The following are resources for more information regarding deltamethrin and mosquito control in your area (unless otherwise noted, available during normal business hours):

For overall pesticide-specific information – 9:30am to 7:30pm:

National Pesticide Information Center **800-858-7378**

For pesticide health information & possible exposures – 24 hours:

New Jersey Poison Information & Education System **800-222-1222**

For New Jersey pesticide regulation & misuse complaints – 24 hours:

NJDEP Pesticide Control Program **877-927-6337**

For Federal pesticide regulation:

USEPA Region 2 Office of Pesticide Programs **877-251-4575**

For statewide mosquito control information:

NJDEP Office of Mosquito Control Coordination **609-292-3649**

For local mosquito control information:

Middlesex County Mosquito Commission **732-549-0665**

For mosquito control recommendations:

Rutgers University, Department of Entomology **848-932-9774**

Spraying for adult mosquitoes is a last resort. Most mosquito control work goes on “behind the scenes”, using water management, fish, and other products to control immature mosquitoes in the water where they begin their life cycle. Controlling adult mosquitoes is more difficult because they are spread out and moving.

If you have questions about deltamethrin or any other mosquito control related products or practices, please feel free to call the Middlesex County Mosquito Commission at (732) 549-0665 (Mon-Fri; 7:00 AM – 3:30 PM), or visit our web site at <http://middlesexmosquito.org>.