

What Is Deet?

Deet is the common name for N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide, a multipurpose insect repellent registered for direct application to human skin, clothing, household pets, tents, bedrolls, and screens.

Why Should I Use Insect Repellent?

Insect repellents help people reduce their exposure to mosquito bites that may carry potentially serious viruses such as West Nile Virus.



Does It Cause Cancer?

According to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) there is no evidence to show that Deet causes cancer.

Is It Toxic?

Deet can cause illness if swallowed. . Avoid applying the repellent to children's fingers and hands.



Follow These Directions Before Applying Deet

- Do not apply Deet containing products to infants under 2 months of age.
- Only adults should apply repellent on children. It should not contain more than 10% Deet.
- Spray repellent on your hands in order to apply it to your face. Do not apply repellent to your eyes or mouth.
- Do not apply repellent to cuts, wounds, or irritated skin.
- Wash off repellent daily and reapply as needed.

How Do I Apply Deet?

Apply repellent sparingly and only to exposed skin or clothing. To apply repellent to face, first apply to hands, then apply to face.

Which Mosquito Repellent Works Best?

The most effective repellents contain Deet, a chemical which repels both mosquitoes and ticks.

A repellent containing 35% Deet will last up to 5 hours. The lower the concentration, the shorter it lasts. Studies show that concentrations of Deet over 35% are no more effective than a 35% concentration.

Examples of Common Brand Names Containing Deet

Maxi DEET

Muskol-Pump Spray

Muskol- Aerosol

Cutter Cream Lotion

Ultrathon Lotion

Deep Woods Off Spray for Sportsman

Ben's Backyard Lotion

Deep Woods Off Spray

Off Pump Spray

Skedaddle



Are Alternative Repellents Effective?

Soy and oil-based insect repellents are also available. However, they do not last as long as repellents that contain DEET.

How Long Do Alternatives Last?

Soy-based **Bite Blocker** provides protection that averages 90 minutes.

The citronella or mixed-oil based products (e.g., **Buzz Away, Avon's Skin-so-Soft, Natrapel, Herbal Armor, Green Ban**) only protect for an average of 20 minutes or less, and are ineffective for providing long term protection.

Do Inspect Repellent Wristbands Work?

Wristbands have been found to be ineffective because they only provide protection to the area that the wristband is touching.



For More Information:

- www.epa.gov/pesticides
- www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm
- National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) 1-800-858-7378 or www.npic.orst.edu
- Albuquerque Environmental Health Department 505-768-2600 or www.cabq.gov/envhealth/
- American Academy of Pediatrics www.aap.org/family/wnv-jun03.htm

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Mosquito Prevention and

DEET

Insect Repellant