



General Use Information for Personal Insect Repellents

- Always read the entire label carefully before using.
- Apply the repellent sparingly, and only on exposed skin surfaces or on top of clothing. Do not use under clothing. Heavy application and saturation are unnecessary for effectiveness. Repeat applications only as necessary.
- Do not get in eyes. If you do get repellent in your eyes, rinse immediately with water.
- Do not use the repellent on open wounds, or if your skin is irritated or sunburned.
- Avoid breathing spray mists and never apply sprays inside a tent. Use only in well-ventilated areas. Do not use near food.
- Wash treated skin with soap and water when you return indoors or when protection is no longer needed.
- Keep all insect repellent containers out of the reach of children.
- Always supervise the application on children.
- Avoid applying repellent to children's hands to reduce the chance of getting the repellent in their eyes and mouths.
- If you suspect that you or your child are reacting to an insect repellent, stop using the product immediately, wash treated skin and seek medical attention. When you go to the doctor, take the product container with you.
- If you are concerned that you are sensitive to a product, apply the product to a small area of skin on your arm and wait 24 hours to see if a reaction occurs.



Choosing A Product

- Choose a product that meets your needs. For example, if you plan to be outdoors for a short period of time, choose a product with a lower concentration of repellent (shorter protection time) and repeat only if you need a longer protection time.
- Use only personal insect repellents that are registered in Canada. They have a registration number granted under the *Pest Control Products Act* and are labelled as insect repellents for use on humans. Never use a product labelled as an *insecticide* on your body.
- PMRA's re-evaluation of Personal Insect Repellents containing citronella and lavender oil has not yet been completed. As a precaution, it is recommended that these not be used on children under 2 years of age. Re-evaluations involve a comprehensive review of the scientific data that supports the registration of a pesticide. The citronella oil repellents registered in Canada protect people against mosquito bites for less than one hour. The registered lavender oil repellent protects for half an hour or less. Based on animal studies, citronella-based products appear to be potential dermal sensitizers. Therefore, allergic reactions may occur in some individuals.

Updated Information on Using Insect Repellents that Contain DEET

The following safety tips are based on the PMRA's re-evaluation of DEET which involved a comprehensive review of the scientific data that supported its registration. For a complete explanation of the DEET re-evaluation process and its conclusions, please refer to Re-evaluation Decision Document RRD2002-01, Personal insect repellents containing DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide and related compounds).

Children under 6 months of age

- **DO NOT** use personal insect repellents containing DEET on infants. (Advice unchanged)

Children aged 6 months to 2 years

- **In situations where a high risk of complications from insect bites exist, the use of one application per day of DEET may be considered for this age group.**
- **The least concentrated product (10% DEET or less) should be used. (New advice.)**
- The product should be applied sparingly and not be applied to the face and hands.
- Prolonged use should be avoided.

Children between 2-12 years of age

- **The least concentrated product (10% DEET or less) should be used.**



- **Do not apply more than three times per day. (New advice)** Do not apply to the face and hands.
- Prolonged use should be avoided.

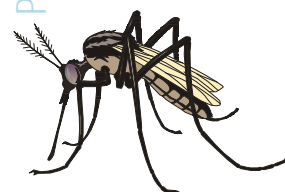
Adults and Individuals 12 Years of Age or Older:

- **Products containing DEET at concentrations above 30% will no longer be acceptable for registration, based on a human health risk assessment that considered daily application of DEET over a prolonged period of time. Studies show that products with lower concentrations of DEET are as effective as the high concentration products, but they remain so for shorter periods of time. Products containing no more than a 30% concentration of DEET will provide adults with sufficient protection. (New advice)**
- 30% DEET will provide approximately 6.5 hours of protection;
- 15% DEET will provide approximately 5 hours of protection;
- 10% DEET will provide approximately 3 hours of protection and
- 5% DEET will provide approximately 2 hours of protection.

Re-apply after these protection time have elapsed if necessary.

Note: There is no indication that there is a hazard to the unborn or nursing child associated with the use of DEET by pregnant or lactating women. However, there are non-chemical methods to reduce mosquito bites (e.g., protective clothing, avoiding mosquito habitat and times of peak mosquito activity) which could be considered.

Safety Tips on Using Personal Insect Repellents



April 2002

Use of Existing Products That Contain DEET at Concentrations Above 30%

Since no immediate health concerns were identified during the re-evaluation of DEET, retail sales of products that contain DEET at concentrations above 30% can continue until December 31, 2004. This phase-out will allow existing products to be used up, thereby preventing disposal problems. If you have any concerns regarding higher-concentration DEET products (cream, liquid or pump spray) you have around the home, you can dispose of them with your regular household garbage. Consult municipal authorities concerning the disposal of aerosol sprays. Otherwise, you may continue to use any products you have that contain a greater than 30% concentration of DEET on adults or children 12 years of age or older, occasionally and according to label directions (i.e., apply sparingly and only as required). These products should not be used for a prolonged period of time (e.g., daily use for several weeks).

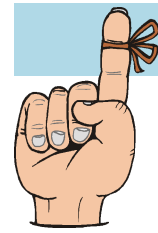
Products Containing DEET and Sunscreens

Some personal insect repellent products contain sunscreen compounds. Because of the incompatible label instructions regarding methods of application, i.e., insect repellents should be applied sparingly while sunscreens should be applied liberally and frequently, the insect repellents/sunscreen combinations products should be used **solely as insect repellents**, and be applied according to the safe practices listed above. Since no immediate health concerns with DEET/sunscreen products were identified during the re-evaluation of DEET, retail sales of such

products can continue until December 31, 2003. Any such products that you still have may be used as directed above, or disposed of as directed for products with more than 30% DEET.

Products Containing DEET in Combination with Di-n-propyl isocinchomeronate (MGK Repellent 326) and N-octyl bicycloheptene dicarboximide (MGK Synergist 264)

Products that contain DEET in combination with di-n-propyl isocinchomeronate and n-octyl bicycloheptene dicarboximide do not appear to offer any added protection from mosquito bites in comparison to products that contain DEET alone, so their use could result in unnecessary chemical exposure. Since no immediate health concerns with such combination products were identified during the re-evaluation of DEET, retail sales of such products can continue until December 31, 2002. Any such products that you still have may be used as directed above, or disposed of as directed for products with more than 30% DEET.



Remember

Before Purchasing a Pesticide Product

- Use physical control methods and alternatives to pesticides.
- Read the label directions and safety precautions before buying the product.
- Purchase only the quantity of product needed for the treatment.

When Using a Pesticide

- Carefully read all label instructions and precautions before using pesticides.
- Do not drink, eat or smoke while applying pesticides.

After Handling a Pesticide

- Always wash your hands thoroughly after handling any pesticide product.
- Wipe clean all surfaces that come in direct contact with food, such as counters, tables and stovetops, including indoor and outdoor surfaces.
- Always store pesticides out of reach of children and pets and away from food and beverages.

In Case of Accidental Poisoning

- Call a poison control centre immediately and seek medical attention.
- Take the pesticide container or label with you to the emergency facility or physician.
- Follow first aid statements on the label.
- In case of accidental poisoning of pets seek veterinary attention immediately.



When Disposing of Pesticides

Do not reuse empty pesticide containers. Wrap and dispose of in household garbage.

Unused or partially used pesticide products should be disposed of at provincially or municipally designated household hazardous waste disposal sites.

Use Common Sense

- These are general recommendations.
- Consult the label for specific instructions.

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