



Dealing with Mosquitos

Who can benefit from this advisory?

All New Jersey residents and home owners can benefit from knowing how to deal with mosquitos regardless of whether they are a nuisance or present a more serious health risk.

Why is DEP issuing this advisory?

Recent concerns over the Zika virus have focused additional attention on mosquitos, and DEP plays a role in ensuring the safe and responsible control of such pests.

For up-to-date information on health concerns, risks and developments with Zika virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses in New Jersey, please monitor these NJ Department of Health web sites: <http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/zika/index.shtml> and <http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/izdp/vbi.shtml>.

What is there to know about controlling mosquitos?

Prevention first - As with all pests, DEP encourages preventative measures before considering any pesticides. Start by eliminating areas around your home which stay wet or hold standing water that serves as prime breeding ground for mosquitos. Many existing sources provide great guidance on this approach and here are a few specifically:

American Mosquito Control Association: <http://www.mosquito.org/control>

NJ Department of Health: http://nj.gov/health/cd/documents/mosquito-proof_your_yard.pdf

When standing water cannot be drained consider using a product that contains Bti (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*). Bti is a low impact pesticide that can be purchased as a granule, briquette, or liquid and often described as a “mosquito dunk”. These products can be purchased privately at many hardware and home improvement centers across the state. Be sure to choose a product that is registered with the US EPA and labeled to control mosquito larva. Closely follow the directions on the label. Unless you are a licensed applicator, you may only use these products on your property.

Pesticide products must be registered – Any pesticide for use in New Jersey (including those containing Bti) must be federally and State registered and will carry a federal EPA registration and approved instructions on the label. For your safety, please follow all label instructions for use of these products.

Repellents require care – Always follow label instructions paying special attention to whether products are meant for use on the skin. For more information on safely using repellants, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents>.

COMPLIANCE ADVISORY

Professional licenses – Anyone applying pesticides anywhere other than their own home, even if purchased from a retail store, must be properly licensed. Requiring licenses for individuals to apply pesticides helps to ensure that pesticides are applied in a manner that is effective on pests while minimizing the risk of harm, injury or damage to people and the environment. In order to treat for mosquitos, a licensed applicator must hold a category 8B license and a business license. Status of these licensees can be found and verified through DEP online reports:

http://datamine2.state.nj.us/DEP_OPRA/OpraMain/categories?category=Pesticides

You may search by applicator/applicator business name, businesses registration #, or license category.

Should you determine that an individual offering pesticide application services is not licensed, please call 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-9276-337).

You are not alone – The potential for mosquitos to carry disease of different types has been understood for many decades and various government entities have been coordinating for just as long to limit the risk to people. In New Jersey, DEP's Office of Mosquito Control Coordination is a hub for county-level agencies that are the primary source for mosquito population surveillance and mosquito control to help eliminate the risks and nuisance they may pose. Learn more about these efforts by visiting <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/mosquito/>.

Who should I contact with questions?

Your County Mosquito Control Agency: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/pcp/bpo-mfagencies.htm>

New Jersey Department of Health: <http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/zika/index.shtml>

General Resources

Rutgers University: <http://vectorbio.rutgers.edu>

Contact NJDEP: <http://www.nj.gov/cgi-bin/dep/contactdep.pl>

Pesticide Operations: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/pcp/bpo-pesticide-links.htm>

Pesticide Enforcement: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/pcp/pcp-bpc.htm>

In addition, DEP's Compliance and Enforcement Program (C&E) is on [Facebook](#). Our goal is to provide our stakeholders and the regulated community a new way to connect and share relevant and useful compliance assistance topics, upcoming training, regulatory updates and recent advisories on a regular basis. Click on <https://www.facebook.com/NJDEPComplianceandEnforcement> and "Like" our page to receive up-to-date information as soon as it is available.



Compliance Advisory Homepage: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/advisories.html>

Advisory Comments may be directed to: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/survey.html>

Please note this advisory is intended to be a summary explanation of a department initiative. It does not include all potentially applicable requirements. If you have any questions related to compliance with this initiative, please contact the Enforcement number listed above.