



Choosing and Using Insect Repellents Properly



The Maine Board of Pesticides Control recommends the following precautions when using insect repellents:

- Repellents should only be applied to exposed skin and/or clothing (as directed on the product label). **Do not use under clothing.**
- **Never** use repellents over cuts, wounds, or irritated skin.
- Do **not** apply to eyes and mouth, and apply sparingly around ears. When using sprays do not spray directly onto face; spray on hands first and then apply to face.
- Do **not** allow children to handle repellents, and do **not** apply to children's hands. When using on children, apply to your own hands and then put it on the child.
- Do **not** spray in enclosed areas. Avoid breathing a repellent spray, and do **not** use it near food.
- Use just enough repellent to cover exposed skin and/or clothing. Heavy application and saturation is unnecessary for effectiveness; if biting insects do **not** respond to a thin film of repellent, apply a bit more.
- After returning indoors, wash treated skin with soap and water or bathe. This is particularly important when repellents are used repeatedly in a day or on consecutive days. Also, wash treated clothing before wearing it again.
- If you suspect that you or your child are reacting to an insect repellent, discontinue use, wash treated skin and then call your local poison control center. If/when you go to a doctor, take the repellent with you.
- You and your doctor can get specific medical information about the active ingredients in repellents and other pesticides by calling the Maine Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 or the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network (NPTN) at 1-800-858-7378. NPTN operates from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Pacific Time) 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Eastern Time) seven days a week or at <http://ace.orst.edu/info/nptn/>.



Maine Board of Pesticides Control
Tel: 207-287-2731
E-mail: pesticides@state.me.us



EPA Repellent Search Database - <http://cfpub.epa.gov/oppref/insect/#searchform>

Insect Repellents: Use and Effectiveness | Pesticides | US EPA - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

efficacy of picaridin to ixodes sc... CDC - Tick Avoid - On People US EPA Insect Repellents: Use and Effe... US EPA Minimum Risk Pesticides under FI... Picaridin Mosquito Repellent | M... nootkatone tick repellent - Googl...

cfpub.epa.gov/oppref/insect/#searchform

Most Visited Maine Board of Pestic... Log In Office of the State Co... Introduction to Pestic... Introduction to Pestic... LessLawn : lawn alter...

SPHS
Incident Reporting
Resources
Recursos en español

Search for a Repellent that is Right for You

Use the search tool below to help you choose skin-applied repellent products that will give you the protection you need. To select the product that is right for you, you need to know the insect from which you need protection and the amount of time you plan to be outdoors. Shorter [protection time](#) does not mean the product is less effective. Be sure to use a repellent product with a protection time that fits your activity, perspiration, water, temperature, and how attractive you are to insects. Re-apply repellent according to label instructions.

Use the search tool to help you choose the repellent product that is right for you. Keep in mind the insect you need protection from and the amount of time you plan to be outdoors. You can specify the insect, protection time, active ingredient, or other product-specific information.

How much time will you need to be protected from biting insects?

Any

Do you need protection from mosquitoes, ticks or both ?

Ticks



All products work against mosquitoes, and not all against ticks.

You can refine your search by specifying one or more of the following options:

Which product are you interested in?

You can leave blank to get a list of all products which fall under your criteria

Are you interested in a particular active ingredient?

All Ingredients

Are you looking for a specific company name?

All Companies

Do you know the EPA registration number of the product you are looking for?

You can leave blank to get a list of all products which fall under your criteria.

[Export the entire insect repellent dataset to PDF format](#) Search Reset

The product listings contain only skin-applied insect repellent products registered by EPA. Unregistered products are not included. [Learn more about unregistered repellent products.](#)

The registration number means the company provided EPA with technical information on the effectiveness of the product against mosquitoes and/or ticks. While this technical information is based on scientific testing guidelines and approved study methodology, there are variations in the resulting protection times because of differences in the testing conditions.

A single registered insect repellent product may have multiple product names that a company may use for marketing purposes. You can look for the registration number of repellents products you buy and check them against this database.

Some of the products listed may not be available in all areas of the United States.

Top of page