



## Mosquito Control Information for Homeowners

### Background

With the increased awareness of West Nile Virus and other diseases transmitted by mosquitoes, homeowners have options in the control of mosquito populations around their residence.

### Around The Home

Female mosquitoes lay their eggs in or near water. The most effective way to control mosquitoes is to eliminate possible breeding places:

- Empty standing water in unused tires, buckets, containers, plastic covers, toys, sandboxes, outdoor equipment, pet dishes, etc.
- Empty and change the water in bird baths, fountains, wading pools and potted plant trays at least once a week.
- Drain or fill temporary puddles with dirt.
- Properly maintain swimming pools and unclog rain gutters.

### Personal Protection

Take steps to protect yourself and your family:

- Use mosquito repellents that contain DEET (diethyl-meta-toluamide) and carefully follow all label directions and precautions.
- For children, use products with less than 10 percent DEET.
- Wear long sleeves and long pants if you or family members venture into areas with high mosquito populations.
- Stay inside in the early morning and early evening when mosquitoes are active.
- Be sure window and door screens are fitted properly and in good repair.

### Pesticide Use

If you choose to use pesticides to control mosquitoes, you have the option of doing it yourself or hiring a professional pesticide application business. Be aware that mosquitoes can fly in from surrounding areas after your property is treated and the effectiveness of most mosquito pesticide applications is short lived.

### Homeowner Applications

- **Read the label and follow all instructions carefully.**
- Be sure the product you select is labeled for use on adult mosquitoes or for the site where mosquitoes live.
- Pesticides for mosquito larvae must be applied to water. However, there are special requirements for applying pesticides to waters of the state.
- If there is a pond, stream, lake or other water body on your property, you may need a permit from the Department of Natural Resources and you may be required to hire a professional pesticide application business. Contact your DNR district office or visit [www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us) for permit information.
- Check the label for a registration number from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This verifies that you are using a legally registered pesticide.
- **Only treat your property.** Drifting pesticides or over applying sprays or granules onto other properties is against the law.

### Commercial Applications

Pesticide application businesses that offer mosquito control must meet the following requirements:

- The commercial business must have a current commercial pesticide application business license issued by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP).
- All pesticide applicators employed by the business must be currently licensed as a commercial pesticide applicator.

## Product or Applicator Claims

- All pesticide applicators must be currently certified in Category 5.0 - Aquatic and Mosquito Pest Control or have an approved reciprocal certification from another state. Certification in Category 3.0 - Turf and Ornamental is not acceptable for mosquito control.

To find commercially licensed pesticide application businesses and pesticide applicators who are certified as commercial applicators including those certified to control mosquitoes, go to [www.kellysolutions.com/wi/](http://www.kellysolutions.com/wi/). This Internet-based directory is updated weekly and contains licensed businesses and those applicators certified to apply pesticides in Wisconsin.

You can also contact DATCP at 608-224-4500 for a listing of currently licensed commercial pesticide application businesses.

No product or applicator can claim to eliminate the chance of contracting West Nile Virus. The most that can be done is to temporarily reduce the numbers of mosquitoes around your residence.

## Resources

[WNV Disease Fact Sheet - Wisconsin Department of Health Services](http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/westNilevirus)  
[dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/westNilevirus](http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/westNilevirus)  
Human health information including disease surveillance map.

[Pesticide Rules and Requirement - Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection](http://www.datcp.state.wi.us)  
[www.datcp.state.wi.us](http://www.datcp.state.wi.us)  
Pesticide licenses, permits, certification information.

[Chemical Control of Aquatic Plants and Vegetation - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/waterway/aquaticplantcontrol.html)  
[www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/waterway/aquaticplantcontrol.html](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/waterway/aquaticplantcontrol.html)  
Also applies to pesticides applied to water for mosquito control.

[National Pesticide Information Center](http://www.npic.orst.edu/wnv)  
[www.npic.orst.edu/wnv](http://www.npic.orst.edu/wnv)  
Provides objective, science-based information about pesticides including mosquito repellents and insecticides, 1-800-858-7378 or e-mail [npic@ace.orst.edu](mailto:npic@ace.orst.edu).

[Pesticides and Mosquito Control - EPA](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/mosquitoes)  
[www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/mosquitoes](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/mosquitoes)  
Information on mosquito control methods, pesticides, repellents, other resources.

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm)  
[www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm)  
Extensive information on WNV including prevention, surveillance, and health.



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection  
2811 Agriculture Drive, PO Box 8911  
Madison WI 53708-8911  
608/224-4500  
<http://datcp.state.wi.us>  
ARM Pub 115.qxd (Rev. 7/08)