

# Repellent

Fact Sheet



Repellents can help reduce mosquito and tick bites. Mosquito and tick bites can lead to serious illnesses like West Nile virus and Lyme disease. Using repellent allows individuals to spend time outside with a lower risk of mosquito and tick bites.

## General Considerations

Always follow label instructions.



Do not apply repellent to cuts, wounds, or irritated skin.



Do not spray directly on the face.



Do not spray in enclosed areas or near food.



After returning indoors, wash treated skin with soap and water.

- Use only enough repellent to cover exposed skin or clothing.
- Only apply repellent to exposed skin.
- Heavy application is not necessary.
- Do not spray repellents directly on to pets.

## Which Repellents Work Best On Skin?



CDC recommends using products that are shown to work in scientific trials and contain active ingredients which are registered with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The following are active ingredients registered with the EPA for use on skin:

- DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide)
- Picaridin (KBR 3023 or "Icaridin")
- IR3535 (Methac 2625 or 3-(N-Butyl-N-allyl)-aminopropionic acid)
- Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus ( $\gamma$ -Hemifuran 3,8-diol or PMD)

Products with DEET and Picaridin typically provide longer-lasting protection than others. Repellents with at least 20% active ingredient work best.