

Mosquito Control Fact Sheet...

“Vectobac” “Teknar” “Bactimos” “Aquabac” “Mosquito Dunks”

Municipalities are encouraged to share this information with all residents in their community

This sheet answers some basic questions about a mosquito control product in use in your county. The Atlantic County Department of Public Works, Office of Mosquito Control, along with several other resources (listed at the end of this sheet), can provide more detailed information. Municipalities are encouraged to share this information with all residents in their community.

What are these products and how are they used?

These products are recommended for mosquito control in New Jersey by Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. They contain the pesticide called **“*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (B.t.i.)”** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) current evaluation considers **B.t.i.**-containing products to be very slightly toxic with minimal potential risk to people when used properly as part of a complete mosquito control program.

These products are used to control immature mosquitoes in ponds, wetlands and other bodies of stagnant water. They act on the larval or immature stage of the mosquito in water before the flying mosquito emerges. The product is part of an integrated mosquito management approach using habitat management and other measures to control immature mosquitoes before they emerge as adults and become nuisances or vectors of disease.

How can I avoid exposure to B.t.i.?

Risk to the general public from the use of **B.t.i.** is minimal. Avoiding exposure is always the safest course of action. Any possible exposure risk can be reduced by following some common sense actions:

- Plan your activities to limit time spent outside during times of possible pesticide treatments.
- Stay away from application equipment, whether in use or not.
- Avoid direct contact with water bodies that have been treated.
- Pay attention to notices about spraying found through newspapers, websites, automated telephone messages or distributed by municipal, county or state agencies.

What are the symptoms of exposure to B.t.i.?

Direct contact with eyes or skin may cause mild irritation or discomfort. The chance of experiencing these symptoms of exposure with proper use is low. You should contact your physician, other medical providers or the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (**NJPIES**) at **1-800-222-1222** if you experience these symptoms following a pesticide spraying. Bring this sheet with you if you visit a physician or other medical provider.

How long will B.t.i. last in the environment?

Because **B.t.i.** is a biological agent, it tends to break down quickly in the environment. Its breakdown in water or soil usually occurs within hours of use.

Where can I get more information on B.t.i.?

The following are resources for more information regarding **B.t.i.** and mosquito control in your area (unless otherwise noted, available during normal business hours):

For overall pesticide-specific information-9:30am to 7:30pm:

National Pesticide Information Center

800-858-7378

<http://npic.orst.edu>

For pesticide health information & possible exposures – 24 hours:

New Jersey Poison Information & Education System

800-222-1222

<http://www.njpies.org>

For New Jersey pesticide regulation & misuse complaints:

NJDEP Bureau of Pesticide Compliance & Enforcement

609-984-6568

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/pcp/bpo.htm>

For Federal pesticide regulations:

USEPA Region 2 Office of Pesticide Programs

877-251-4575

<http://www.epa.gov/ebtpages/pesticides.html>

For state-wide mosquito control information:

NJDEP Office of Mosquito Control Coordination

609-292-3649

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/mosquito>

For local mosquito control information:

The Atlantic County Office of Mosquito Control

609-645-5948

Mosquito Control & West Nile Virus Information Line

1-877-6-4-FACTS

Atlantic County Mosquito control Web Page <https://www.atlanticcountynj.gov/government/county-departments/department-of-public-works/office-of-mosquito-control>

For mosquito control recommendations:

Rutgers University, Department of Entomology

848-932-9437

<http://vectorbio.rutgers.edu/outreach/bmpmcnj.pdf>

For local health information:

The Atlantic County Division of Public Health

609-645-5971

(Pesticide fact sheet approved by the NJ DEP Pesticide Control Program)