

Repellents

What is the Best Repellent?

DEET

Repels Mosquitoes	Yes
Repels Ticks	Yes
Hours of Protection (25% formula)	5
Use in Children	Over 2 months
CDC* Recommended	Yes

DEET-based repellents have provided effective, dependable protection since the 1950s. They are available in various concentrations and their length of effectiveness is usually related to concentration. These products are available as aerosols, pump sprays or wipes. DEET is the most effective and best studied repellent available.

Picaridin

Repels Mosquitoes	Yes
Repels Ticks	Maybe
Hours of Protection (25% formula)	5
Use in Children	N/A
CDC* Recommended	Yes

Picaridin is a synthetic repellent developed in the 1990s that has been commercially available in the U.S. since 2005. It is colorless and nearly odorless. Like DEET, the length of effectiveness is related to concentration. It is available as an aerosol, pump spray or wipe.

Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus

Repels Mosquitoes	Yes
Repels Ticks	Maybe
Hours of Protection (25% formula)	4
Use in Children	Over 3 years
CDC* Recommended	Yes

Oil of lemon eucalyptus is a natural, plant-based repellent that is derived from tree leaves. Its effectiveness is similar to products containing low concentrations of DEET. Products tend to have a strong botanical smell and are available as pump sprays or lotions.

IR3535

Repels Mosquitoes	Yes
Repels Ticks	Maybe
Hours of Protection (25% formula)	3
Use in Children	Over 6 months
CDC* Recommended	Yes

IR3535, also called Merck 3535, is registered with the EPA as a biopesticide, but has been used as a synthetic repellent in Europe for over 20 years with no significant harmful effects. IR3535 was approved for use in the United States in 1999, and is currently available in aerosol, pump sprays, and wipes. While EPA recognizes the use of IR3535 as safe for adults and children, be advised that it is an eye irritant.

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

What You Should Know About Your Children and DEET

Everyone, especially children, likes to spend time outdoors. It's a good idea to protect yourself and your family from disease-carrying insects.

The Fairfax County Health Department recommends wearing DEET and the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Environmental Health has reported that products containing up to 30% DEET are safe to use on anyone over two months of age.

Parents should choose the type and concentration of repellent to be used on their children based on the amount of time the child will be outdoors.

- When applying repellent:



DO NOT spray the face.



Spray repellent on your hands and rub onto exposed areas.



Avoid the eyes and mouth and use sparingly around the ears.

- **DO NOT** apply repellent to children's hands, because children put their hands in their mouths.
- **DO NOT** allow children to apply repellent by themselves; have an adult do it for them.
- Keep repellents out of reach of children.
- Always read and follow label instructions.

Apply Repellent to Your Children



Courtesy of R. Castañeda



The Disease Carrying Insects Program (DCIP) was established in 2003 to monitor and control mosquitoes and West Nile virus in Fairfax County. Since then, it has expanded to include ticks and tick-borne diseases. The mission of the program is threefold—vector and disease surveillance, vector management and control as well as community education and outreach activities.

The programs goal is to minimize the impact of mosquito- and tick-borne diseases with an integrated approach to pest management.

DCIP Team

Program Supervisor:

Jorge Arias, Ph.D.

Biologists:

Joshua Smith, M.S.

Sonya Graves

Support Staff:

Ada Garcia-Ayala

Kelly Fontana

Outreach Coordinator:

Carl Sivertsen

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