

Salem County Mosquito Control QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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

What does this government agency do?

Salem County Mosquito Control Division (under the Department of Public Works) is involved in all aspects of mosquito control. We have full-time inspectors that will inspect known mosquito "hot spots" for the presence of mosquitoes and will treat as necessary. In addition, these inspectors will respond to service requests called in by county residents by inspecting and treating, if necessary, areas in which mosquitoes are found. We also have an Entomologist who assists in inspections and control, and is responsible for mosquito population and disease surveillance. The Entomologist is also responsible for public education, and will conduct educational programs for schools, civic groups, and other organizations. Disease testing is coordinated by the Office of Mosquito Control Coordination, a division of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The county samples mosquitoes from various areas throughout the county and submits them to the New Jersey Public Health Laboratory to have them tested for any or all of the following diseases: West Nile virus, Eastern equine encephalitis, LaCrosse encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis, Chikungunya virus, Dengue virus and Zika virus. If any sampled mosquitoes test positive for virus, we will intensify our inspection and control efforts in the areas where these mosquitoes are found in an attempt to minimize potential risk to county residents. Mosquito Control applications may be made any time between May 1 and October 31 of 2019.

How does our agency control mosquitoes?

Salem County Mosquito Control uses an integrated pest management (IPM) approach to controlling mosquitoes. This approach utilizes several methods of pest control, including mechanical control, biological control, and chemical control. Source reduction is the largest part of our mosquito control program, and in many cases, can permanently affect mosquito population levels. Biological control can also be very effective in mitigating mosquitoes. In this aspect of our program, we identify isolated, permanent bodies of water and introduce fish to feed on the mosquito larvae. Our chemical control program consists of the application of larvicides and pupicides to kill the immature mosquito stages, and adulticides to kill the flying adults. Typically, the non-chemical methods are preferred; however, pesticides are necessary if the other methods are ineffective or not feasible.

What can the general public do to help us with our mosquito control program?

It is very important that we get as much help from the general public as possible to make our program a success. It is everyone's responsibility to reduce mosquito habitat in your backyard.

Here are some tips for reducing mosquitoes around your home:

- use screens in windows
- keep rain gutters free of debris
- clean birdbaths at least every three days
- keep yard and surrounding areas free of any artificial containers* that can collect rainwater
- eliminate standing water from crawl spaces and basements

*Examples of artificial containers include, but are not limited to:

- unused wading pools
- opened trash cans
- tires
- pool covers

- wheel ruts
- toys
- wheelbarrows
- ornamental ponds without proper aeration or fish
- empty planting pots

Anything that can hold rain water for four days can become a mosquito habitat. If you find a mosquito habitat, or if you think you might have an area conducive to the placement of fish, do not hesitate to call our office.

Which pesticides are used to control mosquitoes in Salem County and how are they applied?

In Salem County we use larvicides, pupicides, and adulticides to control mosquitoes.

The larvicides that we may use include:

Abate – active ingredient is temephos

Altosid – active ingredient is methoprene

Vectolex – active ingredient is *Bacillus sphaericus*

Vectobac – active ingredient is *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*

VectoMax - active ingredients are *Bacillus sphaericus* and
Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis

Natular – active ingredient is Spinosad

The pupicides that we may use include:

CocoBear – active ingredient is mineral oil

The adulticides that we may use include:

Fyfanon – active ingredient is malathion

Zenivex - active ingredient is etofenprox

AquaDuet - active ingredients are prallethrin & sumithrin

Scourge - active ingredient is resmethrin with piperonyl
butoxide as a synergist.

Abate is used in liquid form and is mixed with water and applied directly to water by hand or applied over large areas by aircraft.

Altosid is used as 150-day briquets, as pellets, granules or water soluble packets, which are placed directly in water. Vectolex may be applied as granular or water soluble packet. Natular is applied as a granular formulation. Cocobear is a mineral oil that is applied to the surface of water bodies with a compressed air sprayer. Fyfanon is applied as Ultra-Low-Volume (ULV) spray either by ground equipment or by aircraft. Zenivex is applied as an ULV spray by ground equipment or by aircraft. AquaDuet is also applied as an ULV spray by ground equipment or by aircraft. All products used are registered with both the USEPA and the NJDEP, which means that they are legal for use in New Jersey. In addition, all inspectors, and our Entomologist are licensed certified pesticide applicators by the NJDEP.

For further information about the pesticides and their use, please refer to the accompanying NJDEP-approved Fact Sheets.

How do I contact Salem County Mosquito Control for more information?

If you would like us to inspect your property, if you want to report a mosquito habitat, or you would like help with anything else that is mosquito-related, please call 856-769-3255, Monday – Friday between 6:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (summer) or 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (winter). You may ask for the Entomologist or the Administrative Secretary. You may also visit the divisions website at: www.salemcountynj.gov/departments/mosquito-control/ for more information.

For general information:

For overall pesticide-specific information :

National Pesticide Information Center

800-858-7378

For pesticide health information & possible exposures – 24 hours:

New Jersey Poison Information & Education System 800-222-1222

This number is for pesticide regulation information, pesticide complaints, and health referrals:

NJDEP Pesticide Control Program

609-984-6568

For Federal pesticide regulation:
USEPA Region 2 Office of Pesticide Programs **877-251-4575**

For statewide mosquito control information:
NJDEP Office of Mosquito Control Coordination **609-292-3649**

For local mosquito control information:
Salem County Mosquito Control **856-769-3255**

For mosquito control recommendations:
Rutgers University, Department of Entomology **848-932-3146**

For local health information:
Salem County Health Department **856-935-7510**

Where can I find more specific information on mosquito spraying in Salem County and how will I be notified?

Call Salem County Mosquito Control at 856-769-3255. Attached is an example of a newspaper notice that is placed in local newspapers throughout the mosquito control treatment season. The municipality, Office of Emergency Management and other agencies are also notified before every spray mission. The spray schedule can also be found on the Salem County website.

Upon request, Salem County mosquito Control shall provide a resident with notification at least 12 hours prior to the application, except for Quarantine and Disease Vector Control only, when conditions necessitate pesticide applications sooner than that time.