



TIPS

To help protect your family

WHAT IS A REPELLENT?

Human beings are naturally enticing to mosquitoes – our body heat, the lactic acid we emit when we perspire and even the carbon dioxide we exhale attracts mosquitoes. Insect repellents are substances designed to discourage mosquitoes from landing on, climbing on or biting skin.

Personal mosquito repellents come in many forms, including lotions, aerosol sprays, and wipes, and contain active ingredients such as DEET and Picaridin. They can be applied directly to skin or to clothing. See directions for use.

Area, or spatial, repellents can be used to reduce encounters between humans and mosquitoes in a broad area, including a place of outdoor seating, a yard, or even inside a home. They can protect humans from mosquito bites during a range of activities – from outdoor play to family parties.

Repellent efficacy and duration of protection can vary substantially. In general, the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says, “higher concentrations of active ingredient provide longer duration of protection, regardless of the active ingredient.” However, a higher concentration of active ingredient does not mean the product will better repel mosquitoes.

If traveling, make sure you purchase personal repellents. These products can be found in drug stores, supermarkets, hardware stores or online. When purchasing repellents, always look for the active ingredient concentrations suitable for your activity and apply or use the product as directed by the manufacturer.