

Mosquito Control Product

“Altosid Briquets”

This sheet answers some basic questions about a mosquito control product in use in your county. Somerset County Mosquito Control, along with several other resources (listed at the end of this sheet), can provide more detailed information.

What is Altosid and how is it used?

Altosid is an insecticide product that is recommended for mosquito control in New Jersey by Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. It contains the pesticide called “Methoprene.” The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) current evaluation considers **Methoprene**-containing products to be very slightly toxic with minimal potential risk to people when used properly as part of a complete mosquito control program.

Altosid is used to prevent mosquitoes from hatching in lakes, ponds and other bodies of water. It acts on the larval or immature stage of the mosquito in water immediately before the flying mosquito emerges. **Altosid** is part of a mosquito management approach using habitat management and other measures to control immature mosquitoes in order to lessen the need to spray for adult mosquitoes.

How can I avoid exposure to Altosid?

Risk to the general public from the use of **Altosid** is minimal. Avoiding exposure is always the safest course of action, particularly for populations that may be at higher risk such as pregnant women, children, the elderly and those with chronic illnesses. 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.
- Avoid direct contact with water bodies that have been treated.
- Move children’s toys out of application areas.
- Move animals and their food and water dishes out of application areas.
- Stay away from application equipment, whether in use or not.

What are the symptoms of exposure to Altosid?

Methoprene is not a skin irritant or a sensitizer. The chance of experiencing symptoms of exposure with proper use is very 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 any symptoms following a pesticide spraying. Bring this sheet with you if you visit a physician or other medical provider.

How long will Altosid last in the environment?

Methoprene has a low persistence and breaks down in water within a few days. In soil, it breaks down in less than 10 days.

Where can I get more information on Altosid?

The following are resources for more information regarding **Altosid** 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**

For pesticide health information & possible exposures – 24 hours:

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

For New Jersey pesticide regulation & misuse complaints:

NJDEP Pesticide Control Program **609-984-6507**

For Federal pesticide regulation:

USEPA Region 2 Office of Pesticide Programs **732-321-6759**

For state-wide mosquito control information:

NJDEP Office of Mosquito Control Coordination **609-292-3649**

For local mosquito control information:

Somerset County Mosquito Control **908-541-5021**

For mosquito control recommendations:

Rutgers University, Department of Entomology **732-932-9437**

For local health information:

Somerset County Health Department **908-231-7155**