

Mosquito Control Product

“Vectolex”

“VectoLex® CG”

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

What is VectoLex® CG and how is it used?

VectoLex® CG is a bacterial granular larvicide that is recommended for mosquito control in New Jersey by the Agricultural Experiment Station of Rutgers University. It contains the active ingredient called “Bacillus sphaericus (Bs).” The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) current evaluation considers Bs- containing products to be slightly toxic with minimal potential risk to people when used properly as part of a complete mosquito control program.

VectoLex® CG’s active ingredient Bs is a bacterium that occurs naturally throughout the world. It kills mosquito larvae when the larvae ingest the bacterial spores in moist or wet areas such as lakes, coasts, streams, swamps, and drainage ditches. VectoLex® CG 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 VectoLex® CG?

Risk to the general public from the use of VectoLex® CG 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 illness. 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 VectoLex® CG?

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 VectoLex® CG last in the environment?

Because Bs 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 VectoLex® CG?

The following are resources for more information regarding VectoLex CG 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:

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908-231-7155