

Duet Adulticide
Aqua Duet Adulticide

This fact sheet answers some basic questions about mosquito control products in use in Somerset County. Municipalities are encouraged to share this information with all residents in their community. The Somerset County Mosquito Control, along with several other resources (listed at the end of this sheet), can provide more detailed information.

What is Duet and Aqua Duet adulticide and how is it used?

Duet and Aqua Duet contain two pesticides called prallethrin and sumithrin and a synergistic compound called piperonyl butoxide (PBO). Aqua Duet is a water-based product and Duet is the oil-based version. Both are used and act in a similar fashion. PBO increases the effectiveness of Duet, although it does not kill mosquitoes by itself. Prallethrin and sumithrin are members of a family of pesticides called pyrethroids, which are synthetic versions of pesticides produced by plants called pyrethrins. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) current evaluation considers pyrethroid-containing products to be slightly toxic with minimal potential risk to people when used properly as part of an integrated mosquito control program.

This pyrethroid-containing product is used for the control of adult mosquitoes. While habitat management and measures to control immature mosquitoes in water are preferred and most used, the spraying of adult mosquitoes is appropriate when biting populations reach critical levels or when a disease organism is present in adult mosquitoes. Duet works by contacting adult mosquitoes while they are in flight.

How can I reduce my exposure to Duet and Aqua Duet?

Because of the small amounts of active ingredients released per acre, the risk to the general public from the use of pyrethroid-containing products is minimal. Avoiding exposure is always the safest course of action. Any possible exposure risk can be reduced by following these actions:

- Pay attention to notices about spraying found through newspapers, websites, automated telephone messages or distributed by municipal, county or state agencies.
- Plan activities to limit time spent outside during times of possible pesticide treatments.
- Move pets, their food and water dishes inside during ULV application. Also bring clothing and children's toys inside.
- Stay away from application equipment, whether in use or not.
- Whenever possible, remain indoors with windows closed and with window air conditioners on non-vent (closed to the outside air) and window fans turned off during spraying.
- Avoid direct contact with surfaces that are still wet from pesticide spraying. Do not allow children to play in areas that have been sprayed until they have completely dried (approximately one hour).
- If you must remain outdoors, avoid eye and skin contact with the spray. If you get spray in your eyes or on your skin, immediately flush and rinse with water.

What are the symptoms of exposure to Duet and Aqua Duet?

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Symptoms of over-exposure can include irritation to skin and eyes, respiratory and nasal irritation, irritability to sound or touch, abnormal facial sensation, sensation of prickling, tingling or creeping of skin, numbness, headache, dizziness, nausea and vomiting. 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.

How long will Duet and Aqua Duet last in the environment?

Pyrethroids generally have a soil half-life of about 12 days. They have an extremely low pesticide movement rating because they bind tightly to the soil. Pyrethroids are unstable in light. They rapidly degrade in sunlight and at the soil surface.

Where can I get more information on this adulticide?

The following are resources for more information regarding Duet Dual-Action[®] 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:

NJ Poison Information & Education System **800-222-1222**

For pesticide regulation & misuse complaints:

NJDEP Bureau of Pesticide Compliance and Enforcement **609-984-6568**

For pesticide regulation:

USEPA Region 2 Office of Pesticide Programs **732-321-6768**

For pesticide health information:

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

For mosquito control insecticide recommendations:

Rutgers University, Department of Entomology **732-932-9774**

Where can I get more information about local mosquito control?

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

For state-wide mosquito control information:

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

If residents have questions about Duet or any other mosquito control related products or practices, please feel free to call the Somerset County Mosquito Control (908) 541-5021 or visit the program's website <https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/public-works/roads-bridges/mosquito-control>