

Chemical repellents may provide protection against ticks and insects that can transmit diseases. When used improperly, however, repellents may pose a danger. To reduce risk, carefully read and follow all label directions before each use, and do NOT allow children to apply repellents. Two active ingredients found in repellents are DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide) and permethrin. Some recommendations for the proper use of these repellents are listed below.

DEET Repellents

- Only use a product that contains 10% or less DEET.
- Avoid prolonged and excessive use of DEET. Use sparingly to cover exposed skin; **do NOT spray on skin.**
- Do NOT apply to eyes, nose or mouth and do NOT apply to hands of small children.
- Avoid use of DEET products near irritated or damaged skin.
- Do NOT apply repellents in enclosed areas or directly on face.
- DEET should be applied to clothing, but may damage some synthetic fabrics and plastics.
- Wash skin that has come in contact with DEET with soap and water when returning indoors.

DEET and Children

WARNING: Some children have experienced adverse health reactions after applications of DEET. These health problems can be severe. For children, use a product that contains no DEET or less than 10% concentration of DEET.

- Spray only on clothing, and avoid repeat applications.
- DO NOT APPLY TO EYES, NOSE OR MOUTH.
- DO NOT EVER APPLY TO HANDS OF SMALL CHILDREN OR DIRECTLY TO FACE.

Permethrin Repellents

- Wash any skin accidentally exposed to product.
- Spray clothing outdoors, before you put them on. Do NOT saturate. Only spray the outer surface of clothing and shoes.
- Hang treated clothing outdoors to dry for several hours before wearing.
- Do NOT treat clothing more than once every two weeks. Wash clothes before you treat them again.

Medical Attention

If you suspect that you or a child is reacting to a repellent, wash the skin that has been in contact with the repellent, remove any clothing treated with the repellent and call your doctor or the poison control center. If you go to the doctor, take the repellent with you.

For Further Information

Call your Poison Control Center.



tick and insect repellents



Dialing 1.800.222.1222 will connect you to the Poison Control Center in your area. To contact the Upstate New York Poison Control Center business office, dial 1.315.464.7078.

Visit our website at www.upstatepoison.org

