



Mosquito Control Products

LESSON OBJECTIVE: Learn the basic products available to help control mosquitoes.

ESTIMATED COMPLETION TIME: 3 minutes, depending on the extent of the discussion.

HOW TO USE: Hand out copies of the Mosquito Control infographic. Below are some questions your customers may have about mosquito control. Use them to generate a discussion.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Q: What are the products I need for repairing screens around my home?
- A: One of the best ways to keep mosquitoes from coming into the home is to keep screens in good working repair. Some screens can be repaired using a screen repair kit. If you need to replace the entire screen, you will need screen stock, screen spline, a screening tool and a utility knife.

- Q: How can I make sure my septic tank isn't a place for mosquitoes to breed?
- A: Repair any cracks or gaps in the top of the tank. Cover the open vent or plumbing pipes with a wire mesh. The mesh should have holes that are smaller than an adult mosquito.

- Q: Which repellents work the best?
- A: It's best to always use insect repellents that have been registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These are considered safe and effective. Generally, the higher percentage of the active ingredient, the longer the protection. It's best to match the level of protection you need with your activity level. For example, products with a smaller concentration of an active ingredient are suitable if you're going to be spending the evening outdoors. Higher concentrations are better if you will be spending the day outside. Always read and follow directions on the label.

- Q: What is the best product to use to treat clothing so it is insect repellent?
- A: Permethrin is the active ingredient in products designed to be used on items such as boots, pants, shirts and socks. These types of repellents are not to be used directly on the skin.

- Q: What are the active ingredients in the products you carry?
- A: Here are some examples:
 - DEET: found in Off!, Cutter, Sawyer and Ultrathon
 - Picaridin: found in cutter Advanced, Skin So Soft Bug Guard Plus
 - Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE): found in Repel
 - IR3535: found in Skin So Soft Bug Guard Plus Expedition. SkinSmart

- Q: What is the most effective and safest way to apply insect repellent?
- A: Only put repellents on the skin or clothing; don't put it under your clothes. More isn't better; only use enough to cover and for as long as needed. Don't put repellent on open wounds or irritated skin. Don't let young children apply it. Instead, put it on your own hands and then rub it on. Only put a limited amount of repellent on children's hands, as they often put their hands in their mouth and eyes. Don't use repellents near food. Don't spray it on your face, instead put it on your hands first then rub it on your face, avoiding your eyes and mouth. At the end of the day, wash treated skin with soap and water.

Source: Information was gathered from the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention and the American Mosquito Control Association.