

Passaic County Mosquito Control

Pesticide Fact Sheet

Municipalities are encouraged to share this information with all residents in their community

“Altosid[®] Larvicide”

This **Fact Sheet** sheet answers some basic questions about mosquito control products in use in your county. Passaic 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 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 or not it is in use.

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 609-984-6568

For Federal pesticide regulation:
USEPA Region 2 Office of Pesticide Programs 877-251-4575

For statewide mosquito control information:
NJDEP Office of Mosquito Control Coordination 609-292-3649

For local mosquito control information:
Passaic County Mosquito Control 973-305-5754

For mosquito control recommendations:
Rutgers University, Department of Entomology 848-932-9774

For local health information:
Passaic County Health Department 973-881-4396