

What You Need to Know About Truck Spraying



Mosquito control districts or local government departments track both nuisance mosquitoes and mosquitoes that can spread viruses. Spraying larvicides and adulticides from a truck, according to label instructions, is one way to kill mosquito larvae or adult mosquitoes in an area. This is especially important when people in the community are getting sick from mosquito bites.

Truck spraying is used to:

- Control and reduce the number of mosquitoes that can spread viruses.
- Reduce your chances of getting infected with viruses.

What are mosquito control trucks spraying?

Mosquito control trucks may spray adulticide or larvicide. Very small amounts of adulticide are sprayed into the air to kill flying mosquitoes (adults). Larvicide is applied directly to the water where mosquitoes have been detected. This type of application is also useful to kill mosquito larvae living in places that are difficult to reach.

When does spraying occur?

Adulticiding: Spraying occurs when mosquitoes are most active. Generally, local government agencies or mosquito control districts announce the dates and times of spraying in the local newspaper, on district websites and social media, by telephone, or through door-to-door notices.

Larviciding: Applications are typically done during the day so that the driver can easily locate bodies of water where mosquito larvae have been detected.

How often do communities spray?

After spraying, mosquito control districts or local government departments will track mosquito populations and treat an area again as necessary to reduce the chances of people getting bitten by mosquitoes.

Is the spray harmful to people, pets, animals, or the environment?

No, when done correctly, truck spraying will not harm people, pets, animals, or the environment.

What should I do during or after spraying?

Spraying is safe when applied by a licensed vector control professional who follows label instructions. If you prefer to stay inside and close windows and doors you can, but it is not necessary. The spray does not harm pets, but you may choose to bring them inside when spraying occurs. Contact your doctor or healthcare provider if you have any concerns following spraying.



Photo courtesy of Ed Freytag, City of New Orleans Mosquito & Termite Control Board

Mosquito control truck spraying insecticide into the air



A truck with a different type of sprayer on the back.

Information on insecticides and health:

- ♦ The Environmental Protection Agency oversees the registration of insecticides.
- ♦ The National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) provides information online or through a toll-free number, 1-800-858-7378.