

“Altosid® Briquets”

This sheet answers some basic questions about a mosquito control product in use in Mercer County. Mercer County Mosquito Control, along with several other resources (listed at the end of this sheet), can provide more detailed information.

What are Altosid® Briquets and how are they used?

Altosid® is a solid larvacide that is used to prevent mosquito larvae from molting into the adult stage. **Altosid®** contains the active ingredient of **methoprene**, which is an imitation of a hormone found in mosquitoes that keeps larvae in the immature or juvenile stage. The product causes abnormalities in the growth and shedding processes of mosquito larvae and causes death in the pupal stage. **Altosid®** is recommended for mosquito control in New Jersey by the Agricultural Experiment Station of Rutgers University. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) current evaluation considers **methoprene**-containing products to be slightly toxic with minimal potential risk to people when used properly as part of a complete mosquito control program.

Altosid® Briquets are applied to water to prevent mosquitoes from emerging in lakes, ponds and other aquatic habitats. Since the product specifically targets mosquito larvae, it has minimal effect on other organisms. **Altosid® Briquets** are a 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® Briquets?

Risk to the general public from the use of **Altosid® Briquets** 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 illness. 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.
- Avoid 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 in use or not.

What are the symptoms of exposure to Altosid® Briquets?

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 these symptoms following a pesticide spraying. Bring this sheet with you if you visit a physician or other medical provider.

How long will Altosid® Briquets 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® Briquets?

The following are resources for more information regarding **Altosid® Briquets** 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
<http://npic.orst.edu>

For pesticide health information & possible exposures – 24 hours:

New Jersey Poison Information & Education System 800-222-1222
<http://www.njpies.org>

For New Jersey pesticide regulation & misuse complaints:

NJDEP Pesticide Control Program 609-984-6507
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/enforcement/pcp/>

For Federal pesticide regulations:

USEPA Region 2 Office of Pesticide Programs 732-321-6759
<http://www.epa.gov/ebtpages/pesticides.html>

For state-wide mosquito control information:

NJDEP Office of Mosquito Control Coordination 609-292-3649
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/mosquito>

For local mosquito control information:

Mercer County Mosquito Control 609-530-7501
<http://nj.gov/counties/mercer/departments/mcmc/index.html>

For mosquito control recommendations:

Rutgers University, Department of Entomology 732-932-9437
<http://www-rci.rutgers.edu/~insects/indexentonj.htm>

For general information on the pesticide methoprene:

Extension Toxicology Network:

<http://npic.orst.edu/npicfact.htm>

EPA:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/mosquitoes/larvicides4mosquitoes.htm#methoprene>

Wellmark International (Manufacturer):

<http://wellmarkinternational.com/mosquito.htm>

<http://www.altosid.com>

Clarke Mosquito Control Products (Distributor):

<http://www.cmosquito.com/cmcp/default.asp>