

“Abate® 4-E”

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 is Abate® 4-E and how is it used?

Abate® 4-E is a liquid larvicide that is recommended for mosquito control in New Jersey by the Agricultural Experiment Station of Rutgers University. It contains the active ingredient called “**temephos**.” The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) current evaluation considers **temephos**- containing products to be moderately toxic with minimal potential risk to people when used properly as part of a complete mosquito control program. It is a low toxicity insecticide that is applied to waters found to contain mosquito larvae.

Abate® 4-E contains a chemical that is used to treat mosquitoes in the larval stage. The product is very effective against mosquitoes, and when used properly, good control of larvae may be gained. Active use sites include aquatic areas such as ponds, swamps, marshes, bogs, woodland pools, polluted and/or impounded waters, intermittently flooded areas, catch basins and salt-water tidal areas. **Abate® 4-E** 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 Abate® 4-E?

Risk to the general public from the use of **Abate® 4-E** 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 direct contact with liquid pesticides. If there is contact with your eyes or your skin, immediately flush and rinse with clean water.
- Stay away from application equipment, whether in use or not.

What are the symptoms of exposure to Abate® 4-E?

Symptoms of exposure can include headache, nausea, dizziness, excessive sweating, salivation, excessive tearing and a runny nose. The chance of experiencing these symptoms of exposure with proper use is 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 Abate® 4-E last in the environment?

Temephos has a low persistence and will break down in water within a few days. In soil, it breaks down in approximately 30 days.

Where can I get more information on Abate® 4-E?

The following are resources for more information regarding **Abate® 4-E** 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/indexentnj.htm>

For general information on the pesticide temephos:

Extension Toxicology Network:
<http://npic.orst.edu/npicfact.htm>

EPA:

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

Clarke Mosquito Control Products (Distributor):

<http://www.clarkemosquito.com/>