

“Golden Bear”

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 Golden Bear and how is it used?

Golden Bear is petroleum oil derivative that is recommended for mosquito control in New Jersey by the Agricultural Experiment Station of Rutgers University. It contains a special oil formulation as the active ingredient. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) current evaluation considers petroleum oil containing products to be slightly toxic with minimal potential risk to people when used properly as part of a complete mosquito control program.

Golden Bear is used to kill mosquitoes in the water by spreading a thin layer of oil on top of the water surface. It acts on larvae and pupae of mosquitoes by suffocating them as they take in toxic vapors through their breathing tubes. **Golden Bear** 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 Golden Bear?

Risk to the general public from the use of **Golden Bear** 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.
- 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 in use or not.

What are the symptoms of exposure to Golden Bear?

Direct contact with eyes or skin may cause mild irritation or discomfort. 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 Golden Bear last in the environment?

The oil photo degrades rapidly in water, breaking down after a few days.

Where can I get more information on Golden Bear?

The following are resources for more information regarding **Golden Bear** 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/mercerc/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 Golden Bear 1111:

Extension Toxicology Network:

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

EPA:

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