

## The Dangers with Most Insect Repellent Formulas

(HOMS) - If you'll be spending any time outdoors during the summer months, there are two precautions you need to take -- put on bug spray to keep biting insects at bay AND make sure you select a safe and effective formula.

Most bug sprays on the market today are safe when used as directed, but Allen Jones, spokesman for Bite Blocker, an all-natural bug spray, points out serious problems with insect repellents that contain toxic synthetic compounds formulated with ethanol and other highly flammable ingredients. These ingredients make the insect repellent formula more toxic.



EPA has four categories of toxicity, ranging from I to IV, with I being the most toxic and IV being the least toxic. DEET and Picaridin are category III. However to make these actives into effective formulations require flammable ethanol and other toxic ingredients to achieve effectiveness. The flammable ethanol based formulas cause the product to be in a higher (more toxic) toxicity category. These products, including a Lemon Eucalyptus product (based on P-Menthane-3,8-diol in an ethanol formula), are classified as a Category II. Would you want to spray ethanol on your children and then go near a campfire? Also, these products are not safe for pregnant moms and with Zika now escalating through the United States, a safe and effective insect repellent is particularly needed for pregnant moms.

The federal EPA claims that products in each of the four categories of toxicity are safe when used as directed, yet most people are unaware of the problems caused by sprays containing highly flammable and toxic ingredients and they simply use them as needed. Consumers don't take the time to read the warnings in small print on the label, and the label does not explain the problems overexposure can cause. That should send up a red flag. Most people would much rather use a repellent that is safe to apply as needed rather than as directed. The more that a toxic product is applied, the greater the risk of overexposure and long term health effects, especially with children. Not so with Bite Blocker.

Allen points to a study funded by the Department of Defense and published in the Jan. 10, 2003 issue of "The Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health." It blames stress and a combination of chemicals given to Gulf War soldiers to protect them (DEET, the insecticide permethrin and the anti-nerve gas agent pyridostigmine bromide), for causing everything from fertility problems to Gulf War Syndrome.

"The Vets may not have been aware of the dangers when allowing themselves to be sprayed with DEET, so parents should be better informed to make a healthy choice for their children," says Allen. "There's a warning on the label that says sprays containing the chemical should not be over-used along with several other restrictions, and that it can be flammable. Yet, because our government says it's safe and does not indicate the risks associated with the product when misused, people ignore the warnings and use it anyway. The question that puzzles me is, why does the evidence that is available not stir concern in health experts?"

He says parents should pay attention to a case reported to the Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Burn Center Reporting System in 2004. "It's a prime example of what can go wrong when DEET is put on a child. A young girl playing near an outdoor fire in North Carolina suffered severe burns when the bug spray her mother had just put on her ignited," he says. "That would never have happened if she had on a spray made with non-flammable ingredients. As a parent, I am a lot more comfortable using an all-natural, non-flammable insect repellent like Bite Blocker that is proven to work." There are no further cases listed by CPSC since they no longer accept complaints for insect repellents, instead stating that the consumer is in violation when they do not use the product according to the label and refers to EPA.

The Bite Blocker spray is formulated from a base of soy, coconut and geranium oils. In testing by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), this formula kept biting insects at bay for between four and eight-and-a-half hours. The report indicates that Bite Blocker was the most effective repellent tested based on a natural formula. Bite Blocker has a long history now of showing effectiveness and should be recommended as a safe alternative and THE HEALTHY CHOICE. The EPA registered BioUD version of Bite Blocker also adds tick repellency to mosquito protection so that it can be recommended by CDC and health professionals who are aware of the dangers of other formulations for both mosquito and tick borne diseases including Zika, West Nile Virus, Lyme Disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and other diseases.

Bite Blocker is available in other brands of insect repellents too. Look for the parent company, HOMS, on the labeling. The product is nonflammable and the safest natural product proven repeatedly to be effective.

Visit the manufacturer website at [www.homs.com](http://www.homs.com).