



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Health
Office of Mosquito Control
150 Morris Turnpike
Newton, New Jersey 07419
Telephone: (973) 940-5225
FAX: (973) 940-5227
Email: mosquito@sussex.nj.us

County of Sussex

"Scourge®"

Municipalities are encouraged to share this information with all residents in their community.

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

What is Scourge and how is it used?

Scourge is an insecticide product that is recommended for mosquito control in New Jersey by Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. It contains the pesticides called "**Resmethrin and Piperonyl Butoxide.**" The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) current evaluation considers **Resmethrin and Piperonyl Butoxide**-containing products to be slightly toxic with minimal potential risk to people when used properly as part of a complete mosquito control program.

Scourge is used for the control of adult mosquitoes. While habitat management and measures to control immature mosquitoes in water are the preferred routine approaches, the spraying of adult mosquitoes is called for when biting populations reach critical levels or when a disease organism is present in adult mosquitoes. A very fine mist is sprayed into the air since flying mosquitoes must directly contact the pesticide in order for it to be effective.

How can I avoid exposure to Scourge?

Risk to the general public from the use of **Scourge** 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 illnesses. Any possible exposure risk can be reduced by following some common sense actions:

- Pay attention to notices about spraying found through newspapers, websites, automated telephone messages or distributed by municipal, county or state agencies.
- 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.
- Whenever possible, remain indoors with windows closed and with window air conditioners on non-vent (closed to the outside air) and window fans turned off during spraying.
- Avoid direct contact with surfaces that are still wet from pesticide spraying. Do not allow children to play in areas that have been sprayed until they have completely dried (approximately one hour).
- If you must remain outdoors, avoid eye and skin contact with the spray. If you get spray in your eyes or on your skin, immediately flush and rinse with water.

How long will Scourge last in the environment?

The **Scourge** spray stays in the air for a short time until it lands on surfaces. **Resmethrin** has a low persistence and lasts no longer than 25 days in water and soil. **Resmethrin** breaks down faster in sunlight.

Where can I get more information on Scourge?

The following are resources for more information regarding **Scourge** 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**

For pesticide health information & possible exposures – 24 hours:

New Jersey Poison Information & Education System **800-222-1222**

For New Jersey pesticide regulation & misuse complaints:

NJDEP Bureau of Pesticide Compliance **609-984-6568**

For Federal pesticide regulation:

USEPA Region 2 Office of Pesticide Programs **732-321-6759**

For state-wide mosquito control information:

NJDEP Office of Mosquito Control Coordination **609-292-3649**

For mosquito control recommendations:

Rutgers University, Department of Entomology 732-932-9437

For local mosquito control information:

Sussex County Mosquito Control 973-940-5225

For local health information:

Sussex County Health Department 973-579-0370

Spraying for adult mosquitoes is a last resort. Most mosquito control work goes on "behind the scenes", using water management, fish, and other products to control immature mosquitoes in the water where they begin their life cycle. Controlling adult mosquitoes is more difficult because they are spread out and moving.

If you have questions about Scourge or any other mosquito control related products or practices, please feel free to call the Sussex County Office of Mosquito Control at 973-534-5225 (mon-Fri; 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM), or visit our web site at www.sussex.nj.us/mosquito.