

# WHAT IS ADULTICIDING



Spraying, or adulticiding, is the application of pesticides to kill adult mosquitoes. The most common way to apply these pesticides is using truck-mounted ultra-low-volume spray units driven on public roadways. When done properly, adulticiding is an effective way to reduce the number of mosquitoes and reduce people’s risk of contracting mosquito-borne diseases, such as West Nile virus.

## HOW IS ADULTICIDE APPLIED?

The most common way to adulticide is using ULV spray machines to apply extremely small amounts of adulticide over large areas. The droplet size of the pesticide applied in the spray is small enough to be lethal to mosquitoes, but not adversely affect other insects. The pesticide does not linger in the environment for very long.

## THE DECISION TO ADULTICIDE IS BASED ON THESE FACTORS:

Is there a significant increase in the number of mosquitoes that can carry disease?

Have mosquitoes tested positive for WNV?

Is there a history of WNV in an area?

Are weather events contributing to an increase in mosquito populations?

Has there been a confirmed human case of WNV or other mosquito-borne diseases?

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## IS ADULTICIDING SAFE?

All insecticides used in the U.S. for public health use have been approved and registered by the EPA following the review of many scientific studies. The EPA has assessed these chemicals and found that, when used according to label directions, they do not pose unreasonable risk to public health and the environment.<sup>1</sup>



1 Source: Joint Statement on Mosquito Control in the United States from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Available at: [www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/mosquitoes/mosquitojoint.htm](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/mosquitoes/mosquitojoint.htm). Accessed 6/10/13.