



Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
Department of Environmental Resources Management
561.233.2400 www.pbcgov.com/erm/

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Frequently Asked Questions on Chemical Treatments

1. What are the chemicals?

Palm Beach County uses the following chemical insecticides and biological control agents to combat mosquitoes at different phases of their lifecycle.

- *Basillus thuringiensis israelensis*, a natural pathogen of mosquito larvae, is sprayed by ground devices in public right of ways such as grassy swales, subdivision drains, roadside drains, and flood channels.
- Naled, an insecticide used in concentrations lower than the labeled amount, is sprayed by airplane using ultra-low volume spray equipment to kill adult mosquitoes.
- Synthetic pyrethroid, an organic compound similar to the natural pyrethrins produced by the flowers of chrysanthemum flowers, is sprayed by ground devices to kill adult mosquitoes.
- All are approved industry standard products used in the United States to control adult mosquitoes.

2. Where is aerial spraying done in the county?

Aerial spraying is conducted in western portions of Palm Beach County west of Military Trail where mosquito populations are most prevalent in wet environments and for mosquitoes that are most active at dusk.

3. When is aerial spraying done?

Aerial spraying is done at night when most mosquitoes are most active, when air temperature is lowest allowing spray droplets to reach close to the ground where mosquitoes are flying, and when honey bees are back in their hives.

4. How do I know when aerial spraying will be conducted?

Palm Beach County issues press releases to local media prior to conducting aerial spraying. In addition, there is an **Air Spray Hotline** at (561) 642-8775 with up to date information.

As a public service, advanced notification for chemically sensitive individuals can be provided with documentation from a physician.

5. What about mosquitoes that carry Zika?

Mosquitoes that carry the Zika virus are day flying container mosquitoes. They are most active during the day (NOT at dusk) and breed in containers of standing water making aerial spraying less effective. Permanone 30-30 is sprayed in areas where mosquitoes that carry Zika are suspected using hand-held foggers. However, the best way to rid these day flying container mosquitoes is to remove standing water that is collecting in containers around your house so that they no longer have a place to breed.

References and Technical Information on Aerial Spraying for Mosquito Control

- [Centers for Disease Control, Integrated Vector Management](#)
- [Environmental Protection Agency, Naled for Mosquito Control](#)