

Pointers for Parents

All-Natural Methods For Avoiding Biting Bugs

(NAPSA)—Millions of Americans would spend a lot more time in the great outdoors if not for all the biting and stinging pests that Nature put there. Fortunately, it's now possible to keep bugs from ruining your outdoor fun—without resorting to harsh chemicals.

A new line of insect repellents harnesses Nature's own defense against bugs—essential oils—for a nontoxic, botanical product that is safe for use on children of all ages, and works as well as DEET and synthetic chemicals. These formulations target specific neural pathways in insects that regulate movement, behavior and metabolism. And because these neural pathways do not exist in mammals, the formulations are safe to use around children, animals, birds and fish.

Unlike conventional formulas, EcoSMART's patented technology uses 100 percent food-grade ingredients to keep mosquitoes, gnats and more away for hours. It has a fresh, natural scent, is non-oily and dries quickly.

"We recommend that parents choose an insect repellent that is as nontoxic as possible, as well as protecting children by reducing the amount of exposed skin that must be treated with repellent," says Christopher Gavigan, CEO and executive director of the nonprofit organization Healthy Child Healthy World, which offers credible information and expertise to help create healthy environments for families and children. "DEET is known to have adverse health effects when overused, especially on children."

Parents can find additional tips to keep mosquitoes from biting at www.healthychild.org, including:



Using all-natural insect repellents is one way parents can protect their children against insect bites, without using chemicals.

- Remove sources of standing water, such as old tires, birdbaths and planters.
- Use goldfish or freshwater minnows to control larvae in ornamental pools.
- Plant scented geraniums, lemon thyme, marigold, tansy, citrosa plants, sweet basil, rosemary and/or sassafras near your home.
- Use screens on windows and doors, and keep them in good condition.
- Turn on the air conditioner in place of opening windows and doors.
- Stay inside at dusk and early morning when mosquitoes are most active.
- Do not use scented products, which attract mosquitoes.
- Wear lightweight, long sleeves and pants.

EcoSMART's botanical pesticide products can be found at select Wal-Mart, Albertsons, Safeway, Save-A-Lot, and Ralphs' stores, and other major retailers. To learn more, visit www.ecosmart.com.