



## NORTHEAST MASSACHUSETTS MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT NEMASSMOSQUITO.ORG

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Residential ULV Adulticide Requests

##### **What is a Residential ULV Adulticide treatment?**

Adulticiding is the application of an insecticide to reduce adult flying mosquito populations. The treatment is done by the means of a white pick-up truck, with an Ultra-Low Volume (ULV) aerosol generator mounted in the bed. Pesticide applicators are equipped with an array of technical data that aids them in their application, which includes GIS mapping and a current list of the 'Pesticide Exceptions' registered with the state of Massachusetts. Residential ULV Adulticide requests are handled on a weekly basis, resident's call our office starting from June 1<sup>st</sup> between Monday and Wednesday, cut off time is at noon on Wednesday for that week's treatment. Residential ULV Adulticiding takes place on Thursday nights, beginning 30 minutes after sunset.

##### **When should I call to request an ULV Adulticide treatment?**

We strongly encourage residents to request an ULV Adulticide treatment only when they feel they have a mosquito problem. This treatment is not a long-term solution, and only affects mosquitoes at the time of application. This treatment only knocks down the current adult flying mosquito population.

##### **How do I request that my property be ("sprayed") treated for adult flying mosquitoes?**

Residential adulticiding may only be requested by residents residing in municipalities that allow this service. To learn if you reside in a town that allows these requests follow this link and click on the town you reside in: <https://www.nemassmosquito.org/resident-services/pages/towns-we-serve>

If you do reside in a town that allows you to make these requests, you are encouraged to use our preferred method by requesting services online using this link:

<https://www.nemassmosquito.org/home/pages/spray-service-request-form>

If you are having trouble with the online submission, you may call our request line: (978) 352 2811. Residents requesting a treatment must call our office by Wednesday 12:00 noon to be added to the current week's list. Calls can be made to us during office hours (7 am – 3:30pm) or

left on our automated voice message service. Please leave your name, full street address, town and phone number.

### **What should I do to prepare if my home will be treated for flying mosquitoes?**

The pesticide used by NEMMC targets adult flying mosquitoes and is applied one half hour after dusk to midnight, never during broad daylight hours. The Mosquito Control District suggests keeping pets and children inside until 15 minutes after the truck passes. Street-side windows may be closed, but air conditioners can remain on. The treatment is distributed using an ultra-low volume sprayer on a pickup truck, and expands over an area 150' on either side of the truck. Once dry, the material is no longer there.

### **Why would Residential ULV Adulticiding requests be cancelled?**

In case of rain, high wind, or temperatures dropping below 50 degrees, ULV Adulticiding requests will be cancelled for the week and residents must call again the following week to get on the roster again.

### **What happens during a residential ULV Adulticiding treatment?**

A white pick-up truck will arrive at a residence anytime 30 minutes after sunset, outfitted with an Ultra-low volume aerosol generator in the bed of the truck. NEMMC residential ULV Adulticiding is completed at pesticide applicator discretion. This means the operator will often back down the driveway at their discretion to do a quick Adulticide application, but this depends on the residence (if they have a safe, accessible, paved driveway, etc.). NEMMC reserves the right to Adulticide the street rather than backing down a driveway on a case by case basis.

This product expands to leave a swath of 300 feet, allowing a quick knock down of only the adult flying mosquitoes at the time of application. We strongly encourage residents to request an Adulticide treatment only when they feel they have a mosquito problem.

### **What pesticides are being used for adulticide treatment?**

Follow this link to see specifically Adulticide products, labels, and SDS sheets:

<https://www.nemassmosquito.org/public-education/pages/adulticide>

Visit the NEMMC website for more information: <https://www.nemassmosquito.org/>

### **I don't want my property treated for mosquitoes; how do I prevent that?**

There is a process to request an exemption; the request form can be accessed here:

<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/how-to-request-exclusion-from-wide-area-pesticide-applications> .

There is a 14 day wait until the request becomes effective.

### **How will the mosquito treatment affect my vegetable garden?**

Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District  
(978) 352 2800

The treatment will have no effect on your vegetable garden as there is no residue from the pesticide used. As always, wash your fruits and vegetables before consumption. If you are still concerned, you may cover your garden on the night of the treatment.

**My residence was scheduled to be treated for mosquitoes and was overlooked, I did not see the truck come, how do I know if I have been treated?**

If you called to request an ULV Adulticide treatment before noon on Wednesday of that week, live in a town that allows residential adulticide requests to be taken, and there was no cancellation due to weather, your residence was most likely treated.

The pesticide applicators decide how they want to complete their route for the night, which means your residence could be anywhere on the roster between application times (30 minutes after sunset to midnight). The sprayers are much quieter than they used to be and many people don't realize the technicians have visited their residence.

**When is it safe to go back outside after a mosquito treatment?**

The best option is to wait to go outside until midnight, when any treatments are scheduled to be complete. If you must take a pet outside, wait 15 minutes after the truck passes, and bring your pet back inside rather than a walk, the truck may be applying pesticides on nearby streets or residences.

**Are my backyard chickens, bees, horses, fish or other outdoor pets safe during a spray? They can't be taken inside.**

In general, outdoor pets and livestock are not impacted by pesticide applications carried out by state mosquito control districts.

**Will honeybees be damaged by the treatment?**

The technicians do not start the treatment until half an hour after sunset, when all bees should be safely back in the hives. The material used dissipates once it dries.

**What are the impacts on bees from the pesticide use?**

There has been no known beehive kills due to pesticide products applied by State Reclamation Board Mosquito Control Districts. For more information, see the Massachusetts Pesticide Board's website at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massachusetts-pesticide-board> . Or if you have any questions regarding bees, insects, or chemical sensitivity contact Taryn LaScola at the Pesticide Board, Division of Crop and Pest Services and Apiary Program, at 617-626-1776.