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PRESS RELEASE

UF Research-Based Mosquito Repellent Recommendations for Increase Public Safety

The University of Florida conducts research and extension on mosquito repellents. The best mosquito repellents are those that provide protection from bites for at least one hour after a single application. Home-based remedies found online and circulated on social media should be regarded with cautious skepticism unless there is UF-based research supporting the product. For example, there is no scientific evidence that eating garlic, vitamins, onions, or any other food will make a person less attractive to host-seeking mosquitoes.

Researchers tested and evaluated the effectiveness of mosquito repellents based on the amount of time the product will continue to repel mosquitoes after one application to the skin. This is known as Complete Protection Time (CPT). As always, people should read and follow the product label directions.

Products	Active Ingredient	Average Complete Protection Time
OFF! Deep Woods	23.8% DEET	5 hours
Sawyer Controlled Release	20% DEET	4 hours
OFF! Skintastic	6.65% DEET	2 hours
Repel Lemon Eucalyptus Insect Repellent	Oil of lemon eucalyptus; p-menthane 3,8-diol (PMD)	2 hours
Bite Blocker for Kids	2% Soybean Oil	1.5 hours
OFF! Skintastic for Kids	4.75% DEET	1.5 hours
Skin-So-Soft Bug Guard Plus	7.5% IR3535	23 minutes
Natrapel	10% Citronella	20 minutes
Herbal Armor	12% Citronella; 2.5% peppermint oil; 2% cedar oil; 1% lemongrass oil; 0.05% geranium oil	19 minutes
Green Ban for People	10% Citronella; 2% peppermint oil	14 minutes
Buzz Away	5% Citronella	14 minutes
Skin-So-Soft Bug Guard	0.1% Citronella	10 minutes
Skin-So-Soft Bath Oil	Active Ingredient not known	10 minutes
Skin-So-Soft	0.05% Citronella	3 minutes

Moisturizing Suncare		
Gone Original Wristband	9.5% DEET	0
Repello Wristband	9.5% DEET	0
Gone Plus Repelling Wristband	25% Citronella	0

For additional information about mosquito repellents, please refer to the UF/IFAS EDIS Mosquito Repellent publication online at <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in419> or contact the UF/IFAS St. Lucie County Extension at 772-462-1660.

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