



Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Florida Department of Health  
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## Frequently Asked Questions about Naled

### 1. What is naled?

Naled is an organophosphate insecticide -- one of the most widely used types of pesticides. It has been registered for use in the U.S and in Florida by both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA) and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. When it is applied according to label directions, naled is effective at controlling mosquitoes and dog flies without harming humans or the environment. It is sold under the product name Dibrom.

### 2. How may naled be applied?

Typically, naled is released into the air from sprayers mounted on airplanes which are operated by state and/or local officials. Very fine droplets of the spray are released in amounts small enough to remain in the air and kill insects on contact. The amount of active ingredient in the pesticide that is released is small in comparison to the size of the area treated. This small quantity helps to minimize exposure and risks to people and the environment.

### 3. What happens to naled in the environment?

Naled begins to break down immediately when spray droplets are released into the open air. Breakdown products of naled are also short lived in the environment.

### 4. Has naled been studied to determine possible negative effects on human?

Yes. US-EPA has studied naled's effect on human health. Because of the very small amount of active ingredient applied per acre, they found that exposures were hundreds or even thousands of times below an amount that might cause health problems.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has also published a report concluding that naled application for mosquito control is not a serious health concern. This report can be accessed through the following link: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5421.pdf>.

At doses hundreds of times higher than those associated with mosquito or dog fly control, naled can cause salivation, numbness, headaches, dizziness, tremors, nausea, abdominal cramps, sweating, blurred vision, difficulty breathing, and a slowed heartbeat associated with inhalation, skin contact and ingestion. Severe high-dose poisonings may lead to unconsciousness, convulsions or deaths. Naled can also cause irritation or allergic symptoms if a sufficient amount of it gets on the skin.

### 5. Is the naled break down product DDVP a risk to human health?

No. US-EPA staff have determined that the amounts of naled's breakdown products formed after mosquito control spraying does not cause health problems in people.

### 6. Does naled pose a cancer risk?

No. There is no evidence that exposure to naled can cause cancer.

**7. Will a child get ill from naled exposure if they put their fingers or unwashed toys in their mouth while playing outdoors?**

No. The amount of naled that remains on the surface of outdoor toys is too small to cause any health effects, even in children. Naled also breaks down quickly when it comes into contact with moisture or sunlight.

**8. Why has US-EPA reviewed the use of naled?**

US-EPA is conducting “re-registration” reviews on all pesticides that were registered before 1984. Manufacturers are also required to update the safety data regularly to keep the registration current and ensure the continued safe use of the product.

**9. Are some people more susceptible to naled droplet exposure than others?**

Yes. The effect a chemical has on a person depends on the dose – the amount of chemical that enters the body. The dose that produces health effects in humans is usually the same for most people. There are some individuals who may be more susceptible and react to lower doses of the chemical. However, increased susceptibility to naled exposure is still very rare. At the same time, there is no way to predict when someone will respond to lower doses.

If you think you are more susceptible than others to naled and are concerned about the application of pesticides in your area, contact your local mosquito control district or county program and notify them about your concerns. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service’s [Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control](#) maintains a listing of these programs. The Bureau can be contacted by phone at 850-921-4177.

**10. What can I do to reduce exposure to pesticides like naled during spraying?**

Generally, there is no need to relocate during spraying for mosquito and dog fly control. Naled has been evaluated for these uses and found to pose minimal risks to human health when used according to label directions. There are, however, a number of common sense steps to help reduce possible exposure to pesticides during spraying:

- Look for notices about spraying in the newspapers and stay tuned to radio and TV for announcements.
- If you have to remain outdoors, avoid eye contact with the spray. If you get pesticide spray in your eyes, immediately rinse them with water or eye drops.
- Wash exposed skin with soap and water, if you come in contact with pesticides.
- Wash any exposed fruits and vegetables with water before storing, cooking or eating them.
- Consult your physician if you have serious physical or psychological concerns regarding the spraying.

**11. What can people do if they think naled might be making them sick?**

If you are ill you should contact a physician. You can also contact your county health department, the State Department of Health's Bureau of Community Environmental Health, Pesticide Surveillance Program at 1-800-606-5810, or the Florida Poison Information Center at 1-800-222-1222.

**12. Can pets go outside during spraying?**

Yes. It is unlikely pets will get ill from naled. When applied in accordance with the label, the amount of naled that a pet could be exposed to is very small. However, if you want to reduce your pets' exposure, keep them inside during spraying.

**13. Does naled pose risks to livestock?**

No, naled is not harmful to livestock when applied for mosquito or dog fly control according to label directions.

**14. Should I be concerned about the fish in my outdoor fishpond?**

No. Naled can be toxic to fish. However, the concentrations of naled expected to enter fishponds and other water bodies after mosquito spraying is much lower than the doses toxic to fish. To minimize exposure, fishponds can be covered with a tarp before spraying. Do not leave tarps on long enough to cause overheating or oxygen depletion.

**15. Should I be concerned about swimming pools?**

No. You can cover your pool before the spraying occurs; however, no special precautions or waiting periods are required for swimming pools.

**16. Is naled a risk to wildlife and the environment?**

No. Naled used in mosquito and dog fly control programs is not harmful to wildlife or the environment. Naled breaks down quickly in the environment and it is low in toxicity to birds and mammals. While high doses of naled is toxic to fish, the very low concentrations used for mosquito and dog fly control are not. For the protection of aquatic invertebrates, US-EPA has established specific precautions to reduce the risk from repeated use of naled. Naled is toxic to bees. To minimize their exposure, spraying operations are done when bees are not foraging (early morning or late evening).

**For additional information:**

**Medical questions** should be directed to your personal physician or County Health Department or the Florida Poison Control Information Network at 1-800-222-1222.

**Information on the use of naled in mosquito and dog fly control can be obtained from the [Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control](http://www.fda.gov/oc/ohrt/naled4mosquitoes.htm) within FDACS at 850-921-4177 or the US-EPA at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/mosquitoes/naled4mosquitoes.htm>**

**Additional technical information about naled** can be obtained by contacting the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services [Bureau of Pesticides](http://www.fda.gov/oc/ohrt/naled4mosquitoes.htm) at 850-487-0532 or the Florida Department of Health at 1-800-606-5810.

**To report pesticide exposure** call the Florida Department of Health's Pesticide Exposure Surveillance Program at 800-606-5810.