

# MOSQUITO CONTROL

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BTI



Killing larvae that hatch from eggs reduces mosquito populations and may reduce the risk of getting infected with Zika, dengue, chikungunya, or other viruses spread by mosquitoes. *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *israelensis* (Bti) bacteria is found in soil. Bti is used as a larvicide to kill larvae before they can grow into adults that can bite people. Bti has been used for mosquito control for more than 30 years.

During an outbreak, local government departments and mosquito control districts take the lead for large-scale mosquito control activities to immediately kill larvae that hatch from eggs. Depending on the size of the outbreak, larvicides may be applied using handheld sprayers, trucks, or airplanes.



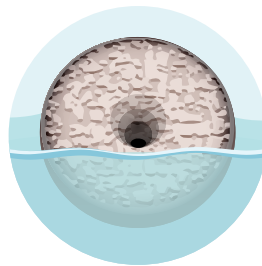
Mosquito control truck used for spraying larvicides

### How Bti Works

- When eaten by mosquito larvae, blackflies, and fungus gnats, Bti produces toxins that kill these insects.

### How Bti is Used

- Bti comes in many forms, including tablets, briquettes, pellets, granules, or liquid.
- Bti can be added to standing water and to containers that cannot be emptied out, covered, or turned over every week, such as rain barrels, fountains, ornamental ponds, septic tanks, and pools that are not in use.



### Bti is Not Harmful to People, Honeybees, Animals, and the Environment When Used as Directed

- Bti is not toxic to people. It has not been shown to make people sick.
- Bti will not harm people, pets and other animals, aquatic life, or other insects, including honeybees.

- Bti is an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insecticide. EPA-registered insecticides have been studied for their effectiveness and safety.
- Bti is EPA-registered for use in residential, commercial, and agricultural settings. Organic farming operations use Bti.
- When used as directed, Bti can be applied safely to standing water where mosquitoes lay eggs without causing harm to food crops or water supplies.
- Multiple Bti products are available for use. Some can be used by pest control professionals in certain drinking water storage containers (e.g., cisterns), while others are not EPA-registered for that use. Always follow label instructions to ensure that the product is being used correctly.
- Bti is most effective when used as part of an integrated mosquito management plan for reducing the number of mosquitoes in an area.



**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention