



## County of Santa Clara Vector Control District

1580 Berger Drive

San Jose, CA 95112

Office: (408) 918 – 4770

[www.sccvector.org](http://www.sccvector.org)

[vectorinfo@cep.sccgov.org](mailto:vectorinfo@cep.sccgov.org)

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) ABOUT ZENIVEX® TREATMENT**

### **Q. Why is it important to treat for adult mosquitoes?**

A. Treatment kills mosquitoes that are infected with West Nile virus in an area. Mosquitoes need a blood meal to live, and when they feed, they can transmit the virus to people. Humans, horses, and other animals can get sick and possibly die from a West Nile virus infection. West Nile does not cause symptoms in most people, but in some individuals, it can cause fever, headache, body aches, and in severe cases can also cause significant neurological damage or death. Adults older than 50 years old, and individuals with certain chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer, and kidney disease are most at risk for serious complications.

### **Q. What time of year does the County of Santa Clara Vector Control District start treatment operations?**

A. The District uses insecticides to kill adult mosquitoes when West Nile virus-infected mosquitoes have been detected. This usually happens between May and September.

### **Q. How can I receive notification of treatments?**

A. We notify through Twitter (@SCCVCD), the SCCVector app (iPhone and Android), AlertSCC, Nextdoor, Facebook (County of Santa Clara Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency), and on our website at SCCVector.org (a map of the treatment zone can be found there). Prior to treatment operations, households in the treatment zone will receive the District's advance notification door hanger delivered directly to their doors. In addition, treatment operations are always preceded by releases to the news media.

### **Q. How does the District apply the products during a treatment campaign?**

A. The product is sprayed by a truck-mounted fogger using a very small amount of pesticide in a process known as Ultra Low Volume (ULV) treatment. The mist of microscopic droplets or treatment is airborne and is not intended to leave significant residues. Flying mosquitoes are killed by contact with the treatment. Mosquito treatments are done at night when most mosquitoes are flying, and traffic is minimal.

### **Q. What type of insecticide is used by the District for adult mosquitoes?**

One of the materials that we currently use is Zenivex E4 (active ingredient is Etofenprox), a reduced risk product of the Environmental Protection Agency.



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### **Q. How will this insecticide affect my family and me?**

A. At the rates that treatment products are applied in Santa Clara County, only 1.5 fluid ounces (three tablespoons) per acre, there should be no significant risk to you and your family. There is no need to relocate during the treatment. If you want to keep your family and pets away from treatment droplets, keep them inside during the treatment event, shutting doors and windows.

### **Q. Will this product affect pets?**

A. Zenivex does not affect pets. At ULV applications rates, Zenivex has a significant margin of safety for mammals, birds, fish, and reptiles. The active ingredient etofenprox is currently used in much higher doses for flea and tick control for dogs and cats. If you are concerned about direct treatment exposure to your pets, bring them indoors during the treatment event. Any toys, water dishes, etc. that stay outside can be washed or wiped down before the pet uses them again.

### **Q. What if I am pregnant?**

A. At ULV application rates, there are no special precautions needed for pregnant women. However, if you wish to minimize exposure, closing windows and turning off air circulation systems will suffice. If you have medical concerns, consult your physician.

### **Q. How do we know that treatment will not cause negative health effects?**

A. Our [Science Research Page](#) provides peer-reviewed science literature on this and other related topics. If you feel ill after a treatment, you should see your physician.

### **Q. How does the treatment reach my back yard?**

A. Once released from the treatment unit, the microscopic droplets follow the air currents wherever they go. Some will go over the house and some will go around.

### **Q. Will the ground treatment affect fruits and vegetables?**

A. For fruit and vegetables, just the normal washing with water before consumption is recommended. Zenivex is registered for use over agricultural areas and growing crops.

### **Q. Will the ground treatment affect my lawn furniture, play equipment, toys, garden plants, swimming pool water, etc.?**

A. The active ingredient in Zenivex has a half-life of 1.5 days in water and 4.4 days in soil. It should not affect car paints or other painted surfaces. However, if you are still concerned about



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residue on your food or children's playthings, wash or wipe them down before use. Any residue left outside will break down quickly in the sunlight.

### **Q. Will this product affect bees?**

A. Zenivex is toxic to bees when applied to them directly, however treatment is done late at night when most mosquitoes are flying, and bees are not active. Bees are active from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. The dried Zenivex residue on plants is not harmful to bees and quickly breaks down in sunlight. Research is currently underway to determine the decline of native and honeybees. No single factor or pattern of factors has been proven to be the cause of the decline or of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Parasites, pathogens, poor nutrition, drought, bee management practices, habitat fragmentation, and pesticides are thought to be potential factors. The claims that the problems with bee colonies are purely due to pesticide applications have not been supported. If you are worried about your hives, you can provide extra protection by covering them during the treatment.

### **Q. How low is Ultra Low?**

A. To picture how low the volume and dose of Zenivex are during treatment operations, consider that the volume of Zenivex liquid used is roughly equivalent to spreading  $2 \frac{3}{4}$  tablespoons, or  $7 \frac{1}{2}$  thimblefuls of liquid over a football field. The amount of active ingredient (etofenprox) applied, amounts to about half a penny's weight per acre.

### **Q. Will the treatment cause reduced visibility when I am driving in the neighborhood?**

A. No, the ULV treatment is very dilute and will not reduce visibility for driving or other activities.

### **Q. How long does treatment take?**

A. Treatment operations begin around 10:00 p.m. and are usually completed by 2:00 a.m. the following morning.

### **Q. How long does the treatment stay in the area?**

A. The treatment does not stay in a given area. Ideally, the treatment drifts through the neighborhood with air currents traveling above one mile per hour. As it travels down wind, it becomes more diluted.



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### **Q. Do District staff need to access my property?**

A. No, treatment is done using truck mounted units which travel slowly down the street.

### **Q. I didn't hear anything last night. Does that mean the treatment was cancelled?**

A. No. Most of our treatment units are designed to be very quiet, so most people will probably not hear them as they pass down the street. However, if conditions like wind speed and temperature are out of range for a successful treatment, the treatment will be postponed. If treatments are postponed, the District will notify residents through Twitter (@SCCVCD), Facebook (County of Santa Clara Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency), the District website (SCCVector.org), Nextdoor, and the SCCVector app.

### **Q. Where can I get additional information regarding specific insecticides?**

A. Questions regarding Zenivex can be directed to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, you can visit <https://www.epa.gov/> and type in "etofenprox" or "zenivex" in the search box. More information can also be found at the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) by visiting <http://npic.orst.edu/>, or by calling 1-800-858-7378.