



## How to Use Permethrin on Clothing Safely

Permethrin is an effective insect repellent when applied to clothing, providing protection against mosquitoes, ticks, and other biting insects. Here are detailed guidelines for its safe use:

**Understanding Permethrin:** Permethrin is a synthetic chemical that acts as an insect repellent and insecticide. It is particularly effective in preventing tick bites, which can transmit Lyme disease, and mosquito bites, which can transmit West Nile virus.

### Choosing the Right Product:

- Look for permethrin products specifically labeled for clothing treatment.
- Ensure the product has an EPA registration number, indicating it has been evaluated for safety and effectiveness.

### Application Tips:

#### 1. Preparation:

- Apply permethrin outdoors or in a well-ventilated area.
- Wear gloves to protect your skin during the application process.

#### 2. Application Process:

- **Spraying:** Follow the instructions on the product label. Typically, hold the spray bottle about 6-8 inches from the clothing and apply evenly.
- **Soaking:** Mix a 0.5% permethrin solution and soak the clothing for a specified period (usually around 2 hours). Ensure the entire garment is submerged.

#### 3. Drying:

- Allow treated clothing to dry completely before wearing.
- Hang clothes in a shaded area away from direct sunlight to avoid degradation of the chemical.

### Effective Duration:

- Treated clothing remains effective for up to 6 weeks or through 6 washes.
- For prolonged protection, store treated items in dark, sealed bags when not in use and hand wash them to extend the repellent's efficacy.

### Safety Considerations:

- **Avoid Skin Contact:** Do not apply permethrin directly to the skin. It is meant only for clothing, shoes, bed nets, and camping gear.
- **Sensitive Areas:** Avoid contact with eyes, mouth, and mucous membranes.



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- **Children:** Keep treated clothing away from children until it is dry. Supervise children to prevent ingestion or excessive contact.

**After Application:**

- Wash your hands thoroughly after handling permethrin-treated items.
- Store the remaining permethrin product securely out of the reach of children and pets.

**Emergency Measures:**

- If permethrin comes into contact with your skin or eyes, rinse immediately with plenty of water.
- If ingested, seek medical attention or contact a poison control center.

Permethrin-treated clothing can significantly reduce the risk of insect bites and related diseases, making it a valuable tool for outdoor enthusiasts and travelers. Always adhere to safety guidelines and manufacturer instructions for optimal protection and safety.