

## ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Below are some questions with answers frequently asked by householders and occupants about indoor spraying.

### **Q: Why do we need our house sprayed?**

A: Adult *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes like to live close to humans and may live inside your home. They like to rest in dark places, such as underneath tables, chairs, beds and around the lounge. Spraying inside your house will kill most of these mosquitoes and help stop the spread of dengue or Zika.

### **Q: How is the insect spray applied?**

A: We spray a very fine mist onto the underside of furniture such as tables and chairs. The mosquitoes that are inside your home will come into contact with the spray and die.

### **Q: What sort of spray is used to kill the mosquitoes?**

A: The products are synthetic pyrethroids. They are mixed with water so they won't smell or stain. They kill mosquitoes, cockroaches, ants and spiders and will continue to work for a couple of weeks.

### **Q: Is the spray harmful?**

A: The spray has a very low toxicity to humans and other mammals and is used at a very low concentration. It is the safest spray available for this purpose.

### **Q: Do we need to leave the house while you are spraying?**

A: Yes, all people – including children – should go outside so that no-one comes into contact with the spray as it is drying. All pets should be taken outside too. If you have any aquarium fish, cover the tanks and equipment and turn off aerators and filtration pumps to prevent your fish from being harmed.

### **Q: Can my baby crawl on the floor after the house has been sprayed?**

A: If you stay outside for 15 minutes after your house is sprayed, it is perfectly safe for your baby to crawl on the floor.

### **Q: What if I get some spray on my skin? Will soap wash it off?**

A: Soap is excellent for removing the spray. Just make sure you wash your skin straight away and rinse with plenty of water.

### **Q: If I am allergic to dust or pollen, or if I have asthma, can I still have my house sprayed?**

A: If you have asthma, it is very important that you stay out of your house for 15 minutes. If you keep your windows open during this time, this is even better. The spray will not affect people who have allergies to dust or pollen. If you have any other allergies, you should mention this to the technician before they spray your house.

### **Q: If we don't have any mosquitoes around our house, do we still need to have our house sprayed?**

A: Yes. Dengue / Zika mosquitoes can fly up to 200 metres. We need to protect you and your family from mosquitoes that are breeding nearby.

### **Q: Will the spray affect plants?**

A: No.

### **Q: What about mosquitoes outside my house?**

A: Dengue / Zika mosquitoes mainly rest and feed inside houses, but some may be found outside. If you are likely to be bitten anywhere, inside or outside, wear insect repellent.