

# Products containing insecticides or insect repellents: check if you need an approval

If a product contains or is treated with an insecticide or insect repellent, you may need an approval from us, the EPA, before you can import or manufacture it. Find out what products need an approval, and how to decide if your product needs one.

Insecticides and insect repellents may be hazardous substances if they trigger a hazard classification. [Read our guidance on hazardous substances classification codes](#). Some of these substances may be found in everyday products like candles, mosquito coils, spray-on insect repellents, and even hats. Whether or not a product needs approval depends on how the insecticide or insect repellent will be used, and if people and the environment are exposed to the insecticide or insect repellent.

## Products that need approval

- Products that release an insecticide or insect repellent into the air, such as plug-in diffusers, mosquito coils or candles and fly sprays.
- Products that are applied to surfaces or to someone's body and contain an insecticide or insect repellent, for example, liquids, powders, granules and gels that can be diluted, dissolved or are ready to use. Roll-on insect repellent is an example.
- Products or materials that have been treated with an insecticide or insect repellent, and people and the environment are exposed to the insecticide or insect repellent.

## Products that may not need approval

- Insecticides or insect repellents that are considered part of or contained within the product or material (a manufactured article) where people and the environment are not exposed to it.

[Read our advice on whether a substance is part of a manufactured article](#).

## Importing and manufacturing insecticides and insect repellents

Any insecticide or insect repellent that is considered a hazardous substance needs to have an approval to be imported to or manufactured in New Zealand. This also applies if it is being used as a coating or treatment, regardless of whether the treated product needs an approval or not.

If you are new to importing or manufacturing products with hazardous substances, make sure:

- you understand your substance's hazardous properties
- you check whether the hazardous substance has an approval
- if it does not have an approval that you make an application to the EPA

- if it has an existing approval you understand the restrictions and controls set by the approval. Controls may cover labelling, packaging and safety data sheet requirements (SDS).  
Read our guidance for importers and manufacturers.

[Find out whether a pesticide, including insecticides and insect repellents, is covered by an existing approval, and how to apply for an approval.](#)

## Contact us

Please email [HS.Applications@epa.govt.nz](mailto:HS.Applications@epa.govt.nz) or call 0800 CALLEPA (0800 225 537) for further advice. Include your telephone number.