

# ARK IN THE PARK WASP CONTROL GUIDE

## Health and Safety information.

### Context.

This guide is intended for Ark in the Park volunteers, to safely use insecticide to control *Vespula* wasps within the Ark in the Park management area. The key insecticides used are Permex and Dust2Dust, which both have the active ingredient Permethrin.

### Emergency information.

If any poisoning is suspected to have occurred, immediately call:

**National Poisons Centre: 0800 764 766**

- ❖ Never induce vomiting if someone is suspected of inhaling or swallowing a poisonous chemical. Rinse their mouth and drink 1-2 cups of water, and call the number above.
- ❖ If on the skin, wash off immediately with soap and water.
- ❖ Eye contact: flush eyes with water for 15 minutes, do not close or rub eyes.
- ❖ If inhaled, move to fresh air and seek medical attention.

### Safety Data Sheet (SDS) summary.

Hazard	Level of Risk	Safety measure
Swallow/inhale dust.	Low toxicity.	Wear mask when working with uncontained dust.
Dust in eyes.	Mild irritation.	Wear safety glasses or a face shield when working with uncontained dust.
Skin contact.	Mild irritation.	Wear gloves at all times (latex), and wash clothes after working with Permex.
Prolonged or repeated exposure.	Organ damage.	Always follow safe use guidelines.
Contaminate waterways.	VERY toxic to fish and freshwater invertebrates.	NEVER use near a waterway or in wet weather. (Suggested 10 meters away minimum).
Impact on bacteria.	Inhibits growth.	Always apply accurately, and only when necessary.

### If a spill occurs:

- ❖ SMALL SPILL: wear safety gear (especially mask and gloves), apply absorbent material to spill, sweep area, safely dispose of all contaminated waste in orange rubbish bag.
- ❖ LARGE SPILL: wear safety gear (especially mask and gloves), clear other people from the area. Place any leaking containers into secure containers. Form a barrier of earth or absorbent material to stop spread of spill. Apply absorbent material to spill, sweep area, safely dispose of all contaminated waste in orange rubbish bag.
- ❖ Absorbent material (usually kitty litter) can be found in the green shed, by the outdoor sink.
- ❖ Ensure no contaminated material spreads to waterways.

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## Methods for use.

### Handling at the Ark base.

1. Wear safety gear: gloves (nitrile), mask, eye protection.
2. Re-read this H&S sheet, and the Safety Data Sheet.
3. Prepare a safe work space:
  - a. Well ventilated
  - b. Not near others
  - c. Where dust will not contaminate other surfaces.
4. Collect gear: pottles, and measuring spoon.
5. Collect the bulk Permex from the poison shed.
6. Ensure all pottles and bulk containers are correctly labelled.
7. Put 125-250g Permex per pottle, then put back in labelled storage container.
8. Return all Permex to secure storage.
9. Clean all other tools with soap and water.
10. Dispose of/clean your safety gear, wash your hands well, change clothing, and wash contaminated clothing.

### Use in the field.

1. Wear safety gear: gloves (nitrile), and long pants/sleeves to protect from stings. Consider safety glasses to protect eyes from dust.
2. First aid kits contain saline solution to flush dust from eyes, should this occur.
3. Take pottle into field in a sealed bag or container.
4. Secure pottle in claw of extendable arm.
5. Carefully unscrew lid.
6. Move upright pottle over entrance to nest.
7. Dump entire contents at nest entrance, and quickly leave the area.
8. Replace lid, and put empty pottle back into sealed bag/container.
9. Place empty pottle back in poison shed, and report location of treated wasp nest.

### Important information:

- **Never use in wet conditions, or if rain is forecast within the next 24 hours.**
- **Never use near waterways, as Permethrin is very toxic to aquatic wildlife.**
- A large nest may require more than one dose of insecticide - the nest should die within a day.
- This guide is for the control of ground-nesting *Vespula* species only.
- How to find a nest:
  - Nests will be readily identified by a large concentration of wasp activity in the area.
  - The entrance will be found where activity is highest, or where wasps are seen to be leaving a hole in the ground.
  - Searching is easiest on sunny days near dawn or dusk - watch for flight paths, and follow these to find the nest entrance.
- There are 5 species of non-native wasp in Aotearoa: the two *Vespula* species (German & common), and three species of paper wasp.
- Non-native wasps are a pest in Aotearoa as their high numbers mean fewer sugary food resources available for our native invertebrates and birds, and they directly predate on our native insects.
- Our native wasps are unique: non are social/hive forming, and we have a vast array of gorgeous, brightly coloured parasitic (Ichneumonidae) wasps. None of our native wasps are a nuisance to humans, and their colourful and interesting forms are exciting to spot!