

Army Combat Uniform with Permethrin



Safety and Benefits:

- Research shows that permethrin-treated uniforms are safe, even when worn for long periods of time.
- Soldiers have already been wearing uniforms that have been factory treated with permethrin. The Fire Resistant ACU (FRACU) with Permethrin has been worn in theater since 2010.
- The U.S. military has used EPA registered permethrin products to treat uniforms since 1991.
- Factory treatment guarantees that a safe and effective amount of permethrin is precisely applied to your uniform.
- Since 2003, well-known companies (LL Bean, REI, and Buzz-Off) have marketed permethrin factory-treated outdoor clothing for civilians.
- ACUs with Permethrin are factory treated by some of the same companies that produce treated clothing for civilians
- By wearing the ACU with Permethrin and using DEET insect repellent on all exposed skin, Soldiers receive protection against more than 60 diseases that are spread by insects.
- Also, ACU with permethrin repels many crawling, flying, and biting insects that may not transmit disease yet are so annoying as to compromise mission accomplishment.

The Army has used Permethrin for over two decades to provide Soldiers protection against biting insects. Initially, the Army issued individual kits to Soldiers to personally treat their uniforms with Permethrin. In 2010, the Army began issuing its first uniforms that were factory-treated with Permethrin. The Fire Resistant ACU with Permethrin provided and continues to provide Soldiers with solid protection against ticks, chiggers, mosquitoes and other biting arthropods which transmit diseases to Soldiers. Now, the Army will issue the ACU with Permethrin to provide Soldiers in the United States and elsewhere the same level of protection against biting insects and other pests.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

The DoD Pesticide Hotline

Email: pesticide.hotline@amedd.army.mil

Phone: 410-436-3773/DSN 584-3773

Or check out the website of the DoD Armed Forces Pest Management Board (AFPMB):

www.afpmb.org



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What you need to know about the new ACU with Permethrin:

- **It's Safe**
- **It's Effective**
- **It's for YOU!**





Soldiers live, train and operate in non-combat areas every day around the world. There is increased risk of getting bitten by insects that transmit potentially lethal diseases.

Cases of tick-borne diseases are on the rise in North America

- Lyme Diseases – 35,000 cases in 2010, up from 12,000 cases in 1995
- Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever - 2,500 cases a year
- Erlichiosis and Anaplasmosis - 1,000 cases each per year

Mosquito-Borne Diseases

- Since 1999, more than 30,000 people in the United States have reported illness from the West Nile Virus. It has killed more than 1,200.
- Other types of mosquito-borne encephalitis occur in North America.
- Dengue “Broken Bone” Fever is making a comeback after a 45-year absence.

It Works!

Tests show that ACUs that are factory-treated with permethrin provide greater than 90% bite protection through 50 launderings.

Used with DEET and other protective measures, it is an effective system that prevents bites from mosquitoes, ticks, chiggers, midges, flies, ants, spiders and other biting arthropod pests.

It is a “Ready to Wear” uniform. No more worries about individual uniform treatment!

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and World Health Organization (WHO) support the use of permethrin-treated clothing as a method of preventing diseases transmitted from insects.



Questions

Frequently asked questions about the ACU with Permethrin

Q What do I need to know about laundering the ACU with Permethrin?

A The EPA requires that all garments that are permethrin-treated, whether military or civilian, be laundered separately from other garments. Follow instructions on the EPA label and hang tag for care and use.

Q Is Permethrin safe for my pets?

A While some permethrin products may be potentially hazardous to some pets, permethrin treated clothing has not been shown to cause any danger to household pets because the factory process binds the permethrin with the fabric. It releases only enough permethrin to repel/kill insects but does not release enough to cause danger to pets.

Q What if I have an allergic reaction to the ACU with Permethrin?

A The weight of evidence in the medical literature indicates that exposure to permethrin from wearing permethrin-impregnated uniforms at the recommended concentrations is unlikely to cause skin sensitization, skin irritation, or other skin effects in humans. Although there may be itching, numbness, tingling, redness, or a rash associated with direct application to the skin or scalp of permethrin containing lotions, creams, solutions, and shampoos, these reactions are not expected to occur with the ACU with Permethrin. A few hypersensitive persons may show signs of skin irritation which could be attributed to the permethrin or laundry detergent used to wash the uniform. Service Members should consult with a health care professional if they have concerns about reactions that may be associated with wearing the ACU with Permethrin.

