

Foray® 48B and Your Health



1 What is Foray® 48B?

Foray® 48B is a pesticide that contains naturally-occurring bacteria called *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk) as its active ingredient. Foray® 48B is sprayed on plants to kill moths and butterflies including tussock moths and spruce budworms that can cause serious damage to evergreen trees in Colorado. It is certified by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) as an organic product.



2 What is *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk)?



Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki (Btk) is commonly found in soil, animals, plants, water and air. When a moth or butterfly eats Btk, a poison is released into its stomach and kills the insect. All other types of insects are not affected by Btk. Btk has been registered for use in pesticides by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since 1961.

3 What can Foray® 48B or Btk do to a person's body?

Btk can irritate the eyes, skin and respiratory tract. Serious health effects like cancer, miscarriage and birth defects have not been connected with Btk. However, it is good to reduce contact to any pesticide. People with allergies or asthma may want to contact their doctor; they could be allergic to one or more of the ingredients in Foray® 48B. People with weakened immune systems may want to avoid areas where pesticide spraying is happening. If you or someone in your home is worried and cannot stay inside or leave the area during spraying you might want to speak to a doctor.



4 Are children more sensitive to Foray® 48B or Btk than adults?

Children may be especially sensitive to pesticides compared to adults. However, there are currently no data showing that children have increased sensitivity specifically to Btk or Foray® 48B



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What about pets?



Btk has been used for many years in pesticides like Foray® 48B and there have been no documented cases of adverse impacts on pets. It is recommended that pets be kept inside to avoid being spooked by the aircraft noise during aerial applications.

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Can I still eat the food from my garden after spraying?

As always, you should wash fruit and veggies before eating them. Foray® 48B is easily washed off with water. Pesticides like Foray® 48B with Btk are widely used by organic farmers and are used up to the day of harvest.



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What should I do before and during the spraying?

Even though Foray® 48B is not likely to have serious health effects, we recommend people stay indoors during spraying. Aerial applicators should give you advance notice of any spraying planned in your area. If you or someone in your home is concerned about how the spraying will affect your health, contact your doctor.

In order to minimize the risk of health issues, we recommend:

- 1) Closing windows and doors and shutting off your air conditioning.
- 2) Covering playground equipment, sandboxes, toys, lawn furniture, pet dishes before the spraying happens. If you cannot get things covered, we recommend spraying things off with water after the spraying.
- 3) Staying inside during and 30 minutes after the spraying.
- 4) Waiting until the spray has dried before touching plants.
- 5) Washing your skin with soap and water if you have touched the spray before it has dried.
- 6) Calling the Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 for medical advice if you experience any health symptoms you believe are related to contact with the pesticide.

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How long will Foray® 48B or Btk stay on my trees and lawn?

Foray® 48B is sensitive to sunlight and heat and will be on plants for three to seven days unless washed off with water.

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Where can I get more information regarding Foray® 48B or Btk?

For more detailed information about Foray® 48B or Btk, please contact the National Pesticide Information Center (1-800-858-7378 or <http://npic.orst.edu>). You can also contact the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment at (303)692-2700 or cdphe_toxcall@state.co.us.