

Skin-applied repellents mask your presence to keep bugs away, while clothing insecticides actively knock down and kill ticks on contact. Combining these two strategies offers the highest level of protection against tick bites, but applying them to children requires strict age-based safety precautions. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

The Key Difference: Repellent vs. Insecticide

Feature [1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9]	Skin-Applied Repellent	Clothing/Gear Insecticide
Primary Goal	Repel (Insects ignore you)	Kill/Knock Down (Insects die or drop off)
Active Ingredients	DEET, Icaridin (Picaridin), or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus	Permethrin (0.5% concentration)
Where to Apply	Directly to exposed skin or outer clothing	Strictly fabrics only (Never apply to skin)
How it Works	Scrambles insect sensors so they cannot locate you.	Attacks the insect's nervous system when they crawl over the fabric.
Durability	Lasts several hours; washes off easily with soap.	Long-lasting; stays active through multiple laundry washes.

[1] <https://www.insectshield.com>

[2] <https://www.insectshield.com>

[3] <https://www.consumerreports.org>

[4] <https://www.arrowexterminators.com>

[5] <https://www.walmart.com>

[6] <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca>

[7] <https://www.cdc.gov>

[8] <https://www.epa.gov>

[9] <https://myhealth.alberta.ca>

[10] <https://www.facebook.com>

[11] <https://www.facebook.com>

[12] <https://www.surface-science.ca>

- [13] <https://www.surfacescience.ca>
- [14] <https://www.tmvc.com>
- [15] <https://www.amazon.ca>
- [16] <https://zam.co.zm>
- [17] <https://www.twogiraffes.ca>
- [18] <https://ca.style.yahoo.com>
- [19] <https://www.canada.ca>
- [20] <https://www.insectshield.com>
- [21] <https://coolmompicks.com>
- [22] <https://kidshealth.org>
- [23] <https://www.canada.ca>
- [24] <https://www.healthychildren.org>
- [25] <https://sonapharmacy.com>
- [26] <https://coolmompicks.com>
- [27] <https://medlineplus.gov>