

## Pang Wangle unveil bug repellent travel wraps



Pic: Pang Wangle

Amidst rising cases of dengue and other diseases spread by insects in countries free of these so far, New Orleans-based Pang Wangle has collaborated with Insect Shield to make their travel wraps and leggings bug repellent. The Insect Shield process binds a small amount of permethrin directly to the clothing fibres which lasts for more than 70 washes.

"We find that most people haven't heard of bug repellent clothes," says Pang Wangle founder and CEO Jennifer John. "But once we explain that its very safe and effective, then they're happy to have that option."

First developed for the US military, the Insect Shield process binds a small amount of permethrin directly to the clothing fibres and it lasts for more than 70 washes. It's odourless and recommended for the entire family,

including infants and children, and pregnant or nursing women.

In the wake of widespread dengue fever outbreaks, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued its third travel alert in less than a month, warning travellers to Latin America and the Caribbean to protect themselves. This follows dengue-related travel alerts in Asia and the Pacific Islands, and Africa and the Middle East.

Dengue is now the fastest spreading mosquito-borne disease in the world, prompting the World Health Organisation (WHO) to include dengue in its list of the top 10 public health threats. Found in only nine countries in the 1970s, dengue is now in 128 countries, including the United States.

Both the CDC and WHO recommend people in affected areas use bug repellent and wear bug repellent clothing – clothes treated with permethrin.

"As the global climate warms, we are sure to see mosquitoes extending their reach farther into territories previously untouched by dengue and other arboviruses," says Dr. Raman Velayudhan, coordinator of WHO's vector management programme.

No.290 Jan, 2020

"We have the technology to protect ourselves, so let's use it," said John. "Permethrin treated clothes aren't just for safaris or backwoods camping anymore. They're an everyday need in many climates."

Fibre2Fashion News Desk (SV)

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