Protect your home against MOSQUITOES

Mosquitoes develop in water that stands for more than five days. To reduce the mosquito population around your home and property, eliminate all standing water and debris. Here are some spots where water can collect or where poor maintenance can cause problems.

1. Pool cover that collects water; neglected swimming pool or child's wading pool
2. Birdbath (change water weekly) and garden pond (stock with fish)
3. Any toy, garden equipment, or container that can hold water
4. Flat roof with standing water
5. Clogged rain gutter (home and street)

6. Trash and old tires; Drill drain holes in bottom of tire swings
7. Tree rot hole, hollow stump, or rain puddle
8. Missing, damaged, or improperly installed screens
9. Uncovered boat or boat cover that collects water
10. Leaky faucet or pet bowl (change water daily)

MOSQUITO CONTROL ADVICE

Photos of larvae and pupae courtesy of *www.scientificillustrator.com*
Photo of adult mosquito courtesy of *http://commons.wikimedia.org*

Locate Sites Where Mosquitoes Breed

All mosquitoes need standing water to begin their life cycle. Any site where water stands for 5 days or more may breed mosquitoes. Locate all sites that hold water.

Drain, Fill, or Get Rid of Areas that Hold Water

- ***Containers that hold water***—Empty and store dry or change water every few days.
- ***Swimming pools***—Maintain with proper chemicals. Cover or drain if not in use.
- ***Plastic sheeting or tarps used to cover yard items***—Pull tight so water won't pool.
- ***Garden pools/ponds***—Stock with fish that eat mosquitoes, such as "mosquito fish" (Gambusia) or small goldfish.
- ***Shallow edges of ponds***—Keep cleared of plants and weeds. Do not plant cattail plants in wetlands or retention ponds.
- ***Clogged ditches and pipes***—Clean out weeds, dirt, and debris so water flows freely.
- ***Low places, such as tire ruts or puddles***—Fill with dirt or cement.
- ***Tree holes and hollow stumps***—Pack with sand or cement.
- ***Failing septic tanks that cause sewage water to pool on top of the ground***—Repair.
- ***Leaky pipes and outdoor faucets***—Repair.
- ***Small areas of water that can't be drained***—Treat with mosquito control products sold at lawn and garden stores. Buy products labeled for use in water.

Protect Yourself from Biting Mosquitoes

- ***Mosquitoes are active at dawn, dusk, twilight hours, and night***—If possible, avoid mosquitoes at these times. Some may bite in daylight, especially in shaded areas.
- ***Screens on windows, doors, and porches***—Install or keep in good repair.
- ***Car windows and garage doors***—Keep closed at night.
- ***Overgrown shrubs, grass, weeds, vines, and ground cover***—Trim or remove overgrown plants that provide cool/dark/damp areas where adult mosquitoes rest.
- ***Outside lighting***—Use yellow light bulbs or sodium-vapor orange lights.
- ***Scented products***—Avoid wearing products that smell like fruit or flowers.
- ***Protective clothing***—Wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants. Treat clothing with permethrin to provide protection even through several wash cycles.
- ***Light-colored clothing***—Wear light colors. Mosquitoes are attracted to dark colors.
- ***Insect repellent***—Wear mosquito repellents that contain DEET, IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, or Picaridin.
- ***Mosquito coils or heated repellent pads found in lamps, lanterns, or portable units***—Use to repel mosquitoes in small areas.
- ***Hand-held foggers***—Apply a pesticidal fog to provide temporary relief outdoors.

Sites with Standing Water That May Breed Mosquitoes

Man-Made Containers

- Cans
- Bottles
- Buckets
- Flower pot saucers
- Plant cuttings rooting in water
- Pet bowls or animal troughs
- Tires
- Birdbaths
- Wheel barrows
- Children's toys and wading pools
- Unmaintained swimming pools
- Rain barrels
- Clogged roof gutters & downspouts
- Boats
- Junk cars
- Plastic sheeting or tarps used to cover yard items

Natural Containers

- Rock pools
- Tree holes
- Stump holes
- Bamboo stumps
- Magnolia leaves
- Bromeliad and Pitcher plants

Natural Areas

- Ground pools
- Clogged ditches or streams
- Irrigated pastures or farmland
- River and stream floodplains
- Freshwater marsh and swamps
- Salt marsh margins
- Lake/Pond margins with plant growth

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Call your local mosquito control program to request help in locating breeding sites if you are unable to locate them yourself. ***We need your help controlling mosquitoes.***

It's time to bite back!