

Backyard Checklist

Backyard Checklist for Preventing the Breeding of Mosquitoes

Here are some things you can do around your house to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. Start by getting rid of places where mosquitoes can breed, such as:

✓ In Standing Water

- Don't allow any outside water to stand for more than four days.
- Cover rainwater barrels with mesh or screen.
- Drill holes in the bottom of any unused containers so water can't collect.
- Remove or drain any standing water from birdbaths, discarded tires, flowerpots (check the dish underneath the flowerpot), wheelbarrows, barrels, tin cans that are left outdoors.
- Keep decorative fountains operational or drain the water. Check fountains after rain and at least twice a week.
- Change water in animal watering dishes at least twice a week.

✓ Swimming or Wading Pools

- Immediately remove any water that collects on pool covers.
- Make sure the pool's pump is circulating water properly.
- Turn over wading pools when not in use.
- Don't leave out children's toys, cups, etc.

✓ In Your Eaves and Drains

- Clear leaves and twigs from eaves, troughs, storm and roof gutters.
- Make sure that drainage ditches are not clogged.
- Check flat roofs frequently for any standing water.

✓ Around your Yard and Lawn

- Fill in any low depression areas in lawns.
- Check knots in trees.
- Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets and remove air conditioner drain hoses frequently.
- Remove areas such as dense shrubbery where mosquitoes breed and rest.

- Let your neighbors know about potential mosquito breeding grounds on their property.

✓ Try to Keep Mosquitoes Out of Your Home

Make certain that door and window screens fit tightly and do not have holes.

- If there are no screens, keep doors and windows closed from evening to dawn.

Personal Protection from Mosquitoes

- Stay indoors from dusk to dawn when mosquitoes are most active. If you need to be outdoors during this period, cover up and use insect repellent for extra protection.
- If you like to work in your garden, avoid early morning and evening when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants and socks when outdoors during these active times. Apply insect repellent to any exposed skin, sparingly:
- Do not apply repellent to children's hands, or near any areas of mucous membrane such as the eyes or mouth.
- Do not apply repellent on children under two years of age.
- It's a good idea to spray any clothing with repellents containing DEET, as mosquitoes easily bite through thin clothing such as cotton t-shirts.
- Carefully read and follow manufacturer's directions for use.

✓ First Aid for Mosquito Bites

- Wash bite with soap and water.
- Apply anti-itch medication.
- Apply cold cloth for swelling.
- Watch for secondary infections.