

Mosquito Control Around the Home

The most effective way to control mosquitoes around the home is to find and eliminate breeding sites. All mosquitoes pass through four life stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult. The first three stages must have water for development. After the eggs hatch, the larval stage begins. Mosquito larvae are often called “wigglers”. Wigglers are most commonly seen just below the surface of the water. The larvae feed on microorganisms found in the water and grow rapidly. The mature larvae transform into pupae. Mosquito pupae are also quite active and are often called “tumbler” because of their tumbling motion in water when disturbed. After a few days the pupae transform into adults.

Homeowners can take the following steps to prevent mosquito breeding on their property:

- Remove standing water that may accumulate on the property (e.g., lawn ornaments, flower pots, etc.)
- Destroy or dispose of tin cans, plastic containers or any other object that can hold water. Pay special attention to old tires.
- Empty and refresh pet water dishes, watering troughs and birdbaths at least twice a week.
- Ensure that garbage cans, receptacles have tight fitting lids.
- Clean debris from rain gutters and remove any standing water under or around structures or on flat roofs. Check around faucets and air conditioner units and repair leaks or puddles that remain for several days.
- If you have a swimming pool or spa, keep it chlorinated. If not in use, cover. Make sure water does not collect on the cover.
- Empty children wading pools immediately after use.
- Store small boats upside down. Cover large boats. Make sure the drain plug is removed so water can drain out of the boat. Make sure water does not collect on the cover.
- Stock ornamental pools with “Mosquito Fish”.
- Irrigate lawns and gardens carefully to prevent standing water.

Adult Mosquito Control

- Keep adult mosquitoes out of the home by using screens on doors and windows.
- Use repellents such as DEET if you are working or playing in mosquito infested areas.
- Adult mosquitoes rest on weeds and other vegetation. Homeowners can reduce the number of areas where adult mosquitoes rest by removing brushy areas from around structures and regularly mowing the lawn.

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