



Mosquito-Proof Your Yard



Water + 7 Days = Mosquitoes!



Habitat Checklist

Use this checklist to help you find and eliminate the places where mosquitoes breed around your home. Any container that holds water can be a home for mosquito larvae. After 7 days, larvae will become adult mosquitoes. Remember to stay aware and to keep containers free of standing water all year long.

| COMMON HOUSEHOLD ITEMS | ACTIONS |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buckets | Empty buckets and turn them over. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garbage cans and recycling bins | Drill drainage holes in the bottoms of garbage cans and bins, keep covered and dispose of recycling weekly. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tarps, plastic bags and sheets | Keep tarps tight and refit them if water collects. |
| BUILDING STRUCTURES | ACTIONS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gutters | Keep gutters clean and properly pitched. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flexible downspout extensions | Pitch downspout extensions so water drains completely after it rains or replace with a non-flexible extension that is pitched to drain fully. Keep the inside free of debris. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leaky hose spigots | Fix leak or call a professional plumber. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decks and Porches | Make sure to check under decks and porches for containers that may hold water. |
| CHILDREN'S TOYS | ACTIONS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Portable basketball hoops | Make sure caps for fill holes are in place; replace if lost. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kiddie pools | Empty or change the water every 5 - 7 days. Be sure to store indoors or turned over when not in use. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sand boxes | Drill small drainage holes in the bottom of the sand box. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Big plastic toys, wagons, etc. | Keep toys turned over or inside when not in use. If water can get inside the toy, drill drainage holes in the bottom. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deflated toys | Drain off water, dry out, and store indoors when not in use. |

| AROUND THE GARDEN | ACTIONS |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planter saucers | Dump the water out every 3-5 days or don't use a saucer. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planters without drainage holes | Drill holes in the bottom of your planter. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self-watering planters | Tightly seal the watering hole after adding water. If this is not possible, treat the reservoir water with a Bti* product. The most effective method for preventing mosquitoes is to not use these planters. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wheelbarrows | Turn wheelbarrows over or store them on end. Check weekly for crevices and empty any water found. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watering Cans | Empty and store upside down or in a garage or shed. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rain Barrels | Cover tops of rain barrels with tightly fitted screen. (Use nylon window screen and secure with a bungee cord or other tight elastic.) Mosquitoes will use the overflow hole to get in and lay their eggs; either plug hole or treat with a Bti* product |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird Baths | Change water at least once a week. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decorative Ponds | Get fish. If that is not an option, you can use Bti* to treat for mosquito larvae. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Behind the shed and under shrubs | Look under bushes and in overlooked spots in the yard and remove debris that can hold water. |

| RECREATION | ACTIONS |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boats | Empty all the water possible. If there is water that can't be emptied, you can treat it with a Bti* product. Cover boats in storage with taut tarps or use boat shrink wrap. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jet skis | Rinse out the foot depressions with a hose every week. Jet skis can be tightly tarped or stored indoors. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pools/pool covers | Treat the pool or pool cover with Bti* in the spring before you open it. If you know of an abandoned home in your neighborhood with an unkempt pool, contact your county mosquito control agency. |

*Bti (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*) is a low impact pesticide. It is available at many hardware stores, pond supply stores and online. Bti effectively targets mosquito larvae. It can be purchased as a granule, briquette, or liquid. Be sure to choose a product that is registered with the US EPA, labeled to use for mosquito larva. Closely follow the directions on the label. You may only use these products on your property.