



Mosquito Prevention and Protection



Always remember the 3 D's of protection from mosquitoes



Drain

Many mosquito problems in your neighborhood are likely to come from water-filled containers that you, the resident, can help to eliminate. All mosquitoes require water in which to breed. Be sure to drain any standing water around your house.

- Dispose of any tires. Tires can breed thousands of mosquitoes.
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers.
- Clear roof gutters of debris.
- Clean pet water dishes regularly.
- Check and empty children's toys.
- Repair leaky outdoor faucets.
- Change the water in bird baths at least once a week.
- Canoes and other boats should be turned over.
- Avoid water collecting on pool covers.
- Empty water collected in tarps around the yard or on woodpiles.
- Plug tree holes.
- Even the smallest of containers that can collect water can breed hundreds to thousands of mosquitoes. They don't need much water to lay their eggs. (bottles, barrels, buckets, overturned garbage can lids, etc.)



Dress

Wear light colored, loose fitting clothing. Studies have shown that some of the 174 mosquito species in the United States are more attracted to dark clothing and most can readily bite through tight-fitting clothing of loose weave. When practical, wear long sleeves and pants.



Defend

Choose a mosquito repellent that has been registered by the Environmental Protection Agency. Registered products have been reviewed, approved, and pose minimal risk for human safety when used according to label directions. Three repellents that are approved and recommended are:

- DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide)
- Picaridin (KBR 3023)
- Oil of lemon eucalyptus (p-methane 3,8-diol, or PMD)

Here are some rules to follow when using repellents:

- Read the directions on the label carefully before applying.
- Apply repellent sparingly, only to exposed skin (not on clothing).
- Keep repellents away from eyes, nostrils and lips: do not inhale or ingest repellents or get them into the eyes.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) suggests that DEET-based repellents can be used on children as young as two months of age. Generally, the AAP recommends concentrations of 10% or less, unless disease risk is imminent, then concentration can be increased to 30% or less.
- Avoid applying repellents to portions of children's hands that are likely to have contact with eyes or mouth.
- Pregnant and nursing women should minimize use of repellents.
- Never use repellents on wounds or irritated skin.
- Use repellent sparingly and reapply as needed. Saturation does not increase efficacy.
- Wash repellent-treated skin after coming indoors.
- If a suspected reaction to insect repellents occurs, wash treated skin, and call a physician. Take the repellent container to the physician.



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THE AMERICAN MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION

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Mosquito Habitat Elimination Checklist

Use this checklist to find and get rid of all the standing water around your home where immature mosquitoes may live.

Immature mosquitoes live and grow in standing water.

It takes them about **7 days** to grow and become adult mosquitoes that are ready to fly and bite.

COMMON HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- ☐ **Buckets:** Empty water from buckets and turn them over.
- ☐ **Garbage cans and recycling bins:** Drill drainage holes in the bottoms of garbage cans and bins, keep covered and dispose of recycling weekly if possible.
- ☐ **Tarps, plastic bags and sheets:** Keep tarps tight and refit them if water collects.

BUILDING STRUCTURES

- ☐ **Gutters:** Keep gutters clean and properly pitched.
- ☐ **Flexible downspout extensions:** Pitch downspout extensions so water drains completely after it rains or replace them with a metal, non-flexible extension that is pitched to drain fully. Keep the inside free of debris.
- ☐ **Leaky hose spigots:** Fix leak or have it fixed by a professional plumber.

AROUND THE GARDEN

- ☐ **Planter saucers:** Dump the water out every 5-7 days or don't use a saucer at all.
- ☐ **Planters without drainage holes:** Drill holes in the bottom of your planter – it's healthier for your plants.
- ☐ **Self-watering planters:** Tightly seal the watering hole after adding water or use traditional planters with drainage holes.
- ☐ **Wheelbarrows:** Turn wheelbarrows over or store them on end.
- ☐ **Watering Cans:** Empty and store upside down or in a garage or shed.
- ☐ **Rain Barrels:** Cover tops of rain barrels and any overflow holes with tightly fitted screen.
- ☐ **Bird Baths:** Change water at least once a week and brush the inside of the bowl to remove any mosquito eggs.
- ☐ **Ornamental ponds:** Get fish. If that is not an option, you can get a pond fountain to stop the water from being stagnant.

CHILDREN'S TOYS

- ☐ **Portable basketball hoops:** Make sure caps for fill holes are in place; replace if lost.
- ☐ **Kiddie pools:** Empty or change water in kiddie pools every 5 - 7 days. Be sure to store indoors or turned over when empty.
- ☐ **Sand boxes:** Drill small drainage holes in the bottom of your sand box.
- ☐ **Big plastic toys, wagons, etc.:** Keep toys turned over or inside when not in use. If water can get inside the toy, so can a mosquito - drill drainage holes in the bottom.

RECREATION

- ☐ **Boats:** Empty all the water possible. Cover boats in storage with tight tarps or use boat shrink wrap.
- ☐ **Jet skis:** Rinse out the foot depressions with a hose every week. Jet skis can be tightly tarped or stored indoors.
- ☐ **Pools/pool covers:** Keep the top of pool covers free of standing water. If you know of an abandoned home in your neighborhood with an unkempt pool, call the Middlesex County Mosquito Extermination Commission. It may need to be treated or stocked with fish that eat immature mosquitoes.

Don't forget to check behind sheds, under shrubs, decks & porches where containers may hide.

Still have a mosquito problem? Contact us.



200 Parsonage Road, Edison NJ 08837
732-549-0665 • MiddlesexMosquito.org

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