Mosquitoes can develop in water that stands for more than 5 days. Use these tips to create a mosquito-free home and yard!

**TIP** over anything that can hold water, such as toys, dog bowls, plant saucers, vases, or bird baths.

**TOSS** or recycle any unwanted yard items that may collect water, such as old tires, junk, or trash.

**TURN** over items that can hold water like children’s pools, wheelbarrows, or buckets.

**TIGHTEN** tarps over items like boats, wood piles, grills, and pools.

**TAKE CARE** of your property. Clean out debris from ditches, drains, and gutters. Keep grass cut low and trim or remove overgrown plants.

**TREAT** items that can’t be drained or emptied with appropriate mosquito control products.

**TEAM UP** and talk with neighbors about reducing mosquitoes in and around your home and neighborhood.
LOCATE AND MANAGE SITES WHERE MOSQUITOES BREED

Any site where water stands for 5 days or more may breed mosquitoes.

Containers

- Drain or get rid of containers that hold water.
- Pack sand or cement into natural containers like tree holes.
- Flush out or treat water-holding plants with a small amount of food-grade oil or a safe mosquito control product.

Standing Water

- Stock ornamental ponds with fish that eat mosquitoes, such as “mosquito fish” (Gambusia) or small goldfish.
- Keep shallow pond edges cleared of plants and weeds.
- Clean weeds, dirt, and debris from ditches so water flows freely.
- Treat small areas that can’t be drained with safe mosquito control products.
- Fill low places with dirt or cement.
- Repair outdoor leaky pipes or faucets and failing septic tanks that pool water.

Protect from Biting Mosquitoes

- Properly apply an EPA-registered repellent such as catnip oil, citronella oil, DEET, IR 3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, picaridin, IR 3535, or 2-undecanone.
- Avoid mosquitoes when and where they are most active at dawn, dusk, twilight hours, and night or in shady areas during the day.
- Avoid wearing fruity or floral scented products.
- Wear protective clothing, such as a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and/or permethrin-treated clothing.
- Wear light-colored clothing because mosquitoes are attracted to dark colors.
- Use mosquito coils and heated repellent pads to repel mosquitoes in small areas.
- Install and maintain screens to keep mosquitoes out.
- Trim overgrown plants that provide resting areas for adult mosquitoes, such as shrubs, grass, weeds, vines, and ground cover.
- Use yellow light bulbs or sodium-vapor orange lights outside to prevent attracting mosquitoes.
- Apply a pesticidal fog with a hand-held fogger to provide temporary relief outdoors.
- Protect your cat or dog from heartworms by asking your veterinarian for preventative medicine.

SITES WITH STANDING WATER THAT MAY BREED MOSQUITOES:

Man-Made Containers

- Cans
- Bottles
- Buckets
- Flowerpot saucers
- Plant cuttings rooting in water
- Pet bowls
- Animal troughs
- Tires
- Birdbaths
- Wheelbarrows
- Children’s toys
- Wading pools
- Neglected swimming pools
- Rain barrels
- Clogged roof gutters and downspouts
- Catch basins
- Boats
- Junk cars
- Plastic sheeting or tarps used to cover yard items

Natural Containers

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

Standing Water

- Ornamental ponds
- Shallow pond margins with plant growth
- Clogged ditches
- Ground pools
- Tire ruts
- Leaky pipes and outdoor faucets
- Failing septic tanks

Call a local mosquito control program for help in locating breeding sites if you are unable to locate them yourself. Controlling mosquitoes is a community effort.