

# 7 TIPS OF MOSQUITO PREVENTION

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



SOUTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH

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.