



Eliminate Standing Water

There are things that YOU CAN DO!

The most effective way to control mosquitoes is to eliminate or treat the standing water where mosquitoes lay their eggs and their larvae live and grow. Once an adult mosquito has emerged from its water-breeding site, air-borne chemical spraying provides only very temporary relief.

WHAT TO DO:

If mosquitoes are a problem where you live, make sure that you are not providing breeding sites in your own yard. Most mosquitoes are poor fliers. If mosquitoes are biting you at home, they are probably breeding around your home. Mosquitoes prefer to breed in all sorts of still water held in artificial containers. Running streams and creeks with any water movement or ponds with predators such as fish, frogs, or dragonflies are not good breeding sites for mosquitoes. Mosquitoes need only a few tablespoons of water to breed. **CHECK THE FOLLOWING:**

- ✓ **Roof gutters** — clean out leaves and debris frequently to ensure water flows freely and does not accumulate.
- ✓ **Flexible plastic pipes for downspout drainage** — Grooves in plastic pipes can hold enough water to breed mosquitoes. Treat with a larvicide.
- ✓ **Buckets, watering cans, drinking glasses, plastic cups, bottle caps, or any trash that can hold water** — store indoors or turn over. If trash, recycle or throw away.
- ✓ **Cans & containers** — throw away, store indoors, turn upside down, drill holes in the bottom, or empty after rain showers.
- ✓ **Old tires** — recycle, or store where they won't collect rainwater. For playground use, drill water drainage holes. Call **703-324-5230** for disposal information.
- ✓ **Bird baths** — change the water or flush out and clean with a garden hose at least once a week.
- ✓ **Ornamental ponds** — stock with fish (*fish eat mosquito larvae*), or filter/aerate the water with a recirculation pump, or treat with a larvicide as needed.
- ✓ **Puddles and wet, soggy areas** — drain the water or fill with dirt or other landscaping material. Treat the area with a larvicide.
- ✓ **Potted plants with saucers** — empty saucers or flush out with garden hose once a week.
- ✓ **Bromeliads (plants that hold water), holes in trees or cavities formed by tree trunks** — turn plant over to dump water. For large trees and plants, flush out cavities with garden hose at least once a week.
- ✓ **Dripping outdoor faucets and window air conditioners** — if water puddles, repair faucet. Place rocks under window air conditioner to ensure water runoff.
- ✓ **Treat your property with a larvicide** — keep mosquitoes from breeding,

WHEN YOU LOOK AROUND THE YARD AND FEEL AT A LOSS JUST REMEMBER TO TIP AND TOSS.



FAIRFAX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT — FOR MORE INFORMATION, GIVE US A **BUZZ**
AT **703-246-2300** • TTY 711 • EMAIL US AT: fightthebite@fairfaxcounty.gov
ON THE WEB WE ARE AT: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fightthebite



FIGHT THE BITE



CHECK LIST FOR MOSQUITO BREEDING SITES

Potential Breeding Site	How to Correct
Roof gutters	Clean out leaves and debris frequently to ensure water flows freely and does not accumulate.
Flexible plastic pipes for downspout drainage	Grooves in plastic pipes can hold enough water to breed mosquitoes. Treat with a larvicide.
Buckets, watering cans, drinking glasses, plastic cups, bottle caps, or any trash that can hold water	Store indoors or turn over. If trash, recycle or throw away.
Cans and containers	Throw away, store indoors, turn upside down, drill holes in the bottom, or empty after rain showers.
Old tires	Recycle, or store where they won't collect rainwater. For playground use, drill water drainage holes. Call 703-324-5230 for disposal information.
Bird baths	Change the water or flush out and clean with a garden hose at least once a week.
Ornamental ponds	Stock with fish (fish eat mosquito larvae), or filter/aerate the water with a recirculation pump, or treat with a larvicide as needed.
Puddles and wet, soggy areas	Drain the water or fill with dirt or other landscaping material. Treat the area with a larvicide
Potted plants with saucers	Empty saucers or flush out with garden hose once a week.
Bromeliads (plants that hold water), holes in trees or cavities formed by tree trunks	Turn plant over to dump water. For large trees and plants, flush out cavities with garden hose at least once a week.
Dripping outdoor faucets and window air conditioners	If water puddles, repair faucet. Place rocks under window air conditioner to ensure water runoff.
Wading pools	Change water at least once a week and store upside down when not in use.
Swimming pools	If unused or abandoned, treat with Mosquito Dunks® once a month. Mosquitoes can't breed in maintained swimming pools because of the chemicals used.
Children's toys	Store indoors, or in a manner that prevents water accumulation. Note that some toys have inner compartments that can hold water.
Drainage ditches and culverts	Allow water to flow or drain freely by clearing debris, and grass/weed clippings. Treat with a larvicide as needed.
Tarps on woodpiles and garden equipment	Empty water that collects in folds and sagging areas. Tighten or straighten so water runs off.
Wheelbarrows	Turn over when not in use.
Under decks, porches, or outbuildings	Fill-in depressions where water can collect
Outdoor grills	Keep covered, and be sure the vent is closed also.
Base of patio umbrella or portable basketball stand	Fill with sand or, if filled with water, be sure to keep plug tightly secured. Keep water out of depressions on stand.
Pet water bowls	Give your pet fresh water every day, and rinse bowls out once a week.
Plastic in gardens to prevent weeds	Use landscape cloth that will allow water through instead of plastic sheets.
Garbage cans, recycle bins, other barrels	Keep covered or drill drainage holes in bottom. Place lids on garbage cans. Store bins and barrels to allow water runoff.
Playground equipment	If no longer used, discard. Otherwise, store under cover or in a manner that allows water runoff.
Canoes, boats	Cover with a tight-fitting tarp, or store upside down.
Hollow fence posts without caps	Put caps on all fence posts where water can collect.
Pipes, plumbing supplies with elbows (corner joints)	Store under cover. If outside, arrange so openings point down, not up.
Bamboo	Cut down, and regularly mow remaining "stumps" so they can't hold water.