

Eliminating Mosquito Breeding Sites on your Property

House and Garden Maintenance

Here are some tips to help you control mosquitoes on your property:

- Clean and repair eaves troughs and roofs. Puddles on shaded flat roofs and in gutters are favourite breeding sites for WNV vectors (mosquitoes living in trees with birds).
- Ensure water drainage around foundations of buildings.
- Check for other ways water may be collecting around your house, such as puddles beneath air conditioners or water taps. Fix taps and fill in depressions that hold puddles.
- Cover, and drill holes in the bottoms of trash and recycling bins and any other container that must be kept indoors. Don't leave garbage can lids, wheel barrows etc. in a position to collect water.
- Clean up plastic wrappers, cans, cups, etc., used for food or other products; mosquitoes can even breed in a potato chip bag that has collected water. Pick up all cups and plates.
- Remove old tires or drill drainage holes in those used for playground equipment.
- Pick up broken, unused or discarded toys. Dispose off broken or unused kiddie pools.
- Clean bird baths and kiddie pools twice a week. Mosquito larvae will die if they dry out.
- Screen rain barrels, or add fish, or add a couple of drops of vegetable oil or soap.
- Add a few goldfish or guppies to ornamental ponds. Small ones will eat mosquito larvae but not dragonfly larvae. Keep non-native fish out of natural waterways.
- Clear excess vegetation and trash from drains, ditches and culverts. Ensure that leaves, grass clippings etc. are not washed into storm sewers. Mosquitoes may breed in catch basins; larvae eat organic matter washed down there. Rubbish in catch basins decreases the efficacy of municipal larviciding efforts.
- Ponds or streams on your property should have natural borders to provide habitat for diverse species such as dragonflies, birds, bats and amphibians. Investigate introduction of mosquito larvae-eating fish.
- Recognise mosquito resting places such as tall grass, weeds, shrubbery and vines around buildings. Mosquitoes are susceptible to drying out, so trim undergrowth in shady/moist/bushy areas. Plants with very large leaves may hold water and provide breeding sites.
- Don't allow water to sit in your boat, and make sure the cover is tight and has no standing water pockets. Store canoes and kayaks upside down.
- Ensure that rainwater does not collect on pool or hot-tub covers. Keep water in pools circulating.
- Check holes in trees or stumps. Cut the wood so that holes drain (this also prevents rot in your tree). Remove stumps or fill holes with sand, aerosol foam or cement, or flush out with spray of water twice a week.

Mosquitoes lay eggs in as little as **one centimetre of standing water**.

Mosquitoes can reproduce and mature in less than one week. **The objective is to control all sites where mosquitoes can breed** – eliminate hard-to-access breeding sites and routinely clean out easy-to-reach ones.

Mosquitoes carrying WNV don't fly far, so you and your neighbours can minimise your risk of WNV

Mosquitoes may be found to breed in ornamental pools, wheelbarrows, sump pump pits, birdbaths, blocked rain gutters, rain barrels, buckets, old tires, bottles, dishes, tin cans, jars, cisterns, watering cans, toys, carts, hollow stumps or trees, plastic wading pools, septic tanks, air conditioner drain outlets, utility meters, ponds, over irrigated lawns, cesspools, watering troughs, drainage ditches, mud puddles, flower vases, potted plant saucers, unused toilets, hoof prints, water softening tanks, wells, flat roofs and in any other place where undisturbed or stagnant water can collect.