



# Fact Sheet For Mosquito Control



## Why Worry About Mosquitoes?

Mosquitoes not only inflict painful bites that later itch, these pesky insects can transmit a variety of dangerous diseases, including West Nile virus, dog heartworm, dengue fever, Eastern and Western Equine encephalitis, Chikungunya virus, malaria, and Zika virus, among others. The West Nile virus has been detected in all of the lower 48 states; most of the other listed diseases are not prevalent in the United States but can be contracted when travelling overseas. For specific information on these and other mosquito-borne diseases, refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/prevention/>

## How is the best way to limit mosquitoes?

Adult mosquitoes lay their eggs in slow-moving or ponding water and on moist soil or leaf litter in areas likely to collect water. Thus, the best way to limit mosquito production is to eliminate such water sources.

- Keep all garbage or recycling containers that are stored outdoors covered to keep water out.
- Keep gutters clean and unclogged. Be sure downspouts properly drain, without leaving puddles in the drainage area. Reroute downspouts or add extensions to carry water away from buildings.
- Keep swimming pools cleaned and chlorinated, even when not in use. Homeowners who go on vacation without chlorinating their pools may return to a find it operating as a mosquito hatchery.
- After a rain, look for areas in the landscape that are not draining well. If there are puddles that remain for four or more days, re-grade the area.
- Aerate ornamental ponds to keep water moving, which will discourage mosquitoes from laying eggs. Alternately, stock the pond with mosquito-eating fish.
- At least twice per week, dump birdbaths, non-chlorinated wading pools, garbage can lids, buckets, and pottery, as these items will all attract breeding mosquitoes.
- Empty saucers under flower pots, and don't leave water in pet bowls for more than two days.

## What is the best way to prevent mosquito bites?

- **Wear insect repellent!** Yes, it is safe. When used as directed, insect repellent is the **BEST** way to protect yourself from mosquito bites - even for children and pregnant women. Higher percentages of the active ingredient provide longer lasting protection. Here are some to consider:
  - \* **DEET:** Products containing DEET include Cutter, OFF!, Skintastic.
  - \* **Picaridin** (also known as KBR 3023, Bayrepel, and Icaridin): Products containing picaridin include Cutter Advanced, Skin So Soft Bug Guard Plus, and Autan (outside the United States).
  - \* **Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE):** Repel contains OLE.
  - \* **IR3535:** Products containing IR3535 include Skin So Soft Bug Guard Plus Expedition and SkinSmart.
- **Cover up.** Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants, if possible.
- **Keep mosquitoes outside:** Use air conditioning or ensure that window/door screens are in good repair.
- **Before traveling, do some research.** Learn about your destination's specific health risks. Visit the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/prevention/preventing-mosquito-bites-while-traveling.html>

## How can mosquitoes be controlled in Stormwater Ponds?

- Keep grass cut along the shoreline and mow dry ponds several times per year, since adult mosquitoes usually rest during the day on tall weeds or other vegetation.
- Remove woody debris from side slopes and bottom.
- Remove any dumped items that may hold water, such as old tires, cans, buckets, etc.
- For dry ponds, ensure positive drainage from inflow to outflow to avoid standing water.
- For wet ponds, consider adding environmentally-safe products to kill mosquito larvae, such as:
  - \* Mosquito Dunk organic tablets
  - \* Mosquito Bits organic granules
  - \* Microbe-Lift/BMC - Biological Mosquito ControlThese products are usually available from hardware or landscape supply stores.

## For questions or more information, contact:

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