



Mosquito Prevention Checklist

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Our integrated mosquito management program is a comprehensive mosquito prevention/control strategy that uses available mosquito control methods singly, or in combination to exploit the known vulnerabilities of mosquitoes in order to reduce their numbers to a tolerable level while maintaining a quality environment.

Here are some proactive steps that homeowners can take to further prevent mosquito breeding/activity on their property.

- ✓ Destroy or dispose of tin cans, old tires, buckets, unused plastic swimming pools or other containers that collect and hold water.
- ✓ Do not allow water to accumulate in the saucers of flowerpots, cemetery urns or in pet dishes for more than 2 days.
- ✓ Clean debris from gutters and remove any standing water under or around structures, or on flat roofs.
- ✓ Check around faucets and air conditioner units and repair leaks or eliminate puddles that remain for several days.
- ✓ Change the water in birdbaths and wading pools at least once a week and stock ornamental pools with top feeding predacious minnows. Known as mosquito fish, these minnows are about 1 - 1-1/2 inches in length and can be purchased or native fish can be seined from streams and creeks locally.
- ✓ Commercial products "Mosquito Dunks" and "Mosquito Bits" containing Bti can be purchased at many hardware/garden stores for homeowner use.
- ✓ Fill or drain puddles, ditches and swampy areas, and either remove, drain or fill tree holes and stumps with mortar. These areas may be treated with Bti products as well.
- ✓ Eliminate seepage from cisterns, cesspools, and septic tanks.
- ✓ Eliminate standing water around animal watering troughs. Flush livestock water troughs twice a week. Check for trapped water in plastic or canvas tarps used to cover boats, pools, etc. Arrange the tarp to drain the water.
- ✓ Check around construction sites or do-it-yourself improvements to ensure that proper backfilling and grading prevent drainage problems.
- ✓ Irrigate lawns and gardens carefully to prevent water from standing for several days.
- ✓ If ditches do not flow and contain stagnant water for one week or longer, they can produce large numbers of mosquitoes. Report such conditions to a the city or Public Health Office. Do not attempt to clear these ditches because they may be protected by wetland regulations.
- ✓ Clean or remove any habitat where mosquitoes "rest" such as piles of leaves or sticks, tarps, or any damp, dark places.