

Tips on Eliminating Mosquito Breeding Sites on Your Property

- The objective is to eliminate all sites where mosquitoes can breed. Remember, some species of mosquitoes can breed in as little as one-half inch of standing water.
- Some mosquitoes can hatch in as little as one week. Where water must be available – as for pets and other animals – it is necessary to change the water and flush out the container at least twice a week to disrupt the breeding cycle of mosquitoes.
- **The following is a check list of things you can do to reduce mosquito breeding grounds on your property:**
 - ❑ Clean out eaves, troughs, and gutters.
 - ❑ Remove old tires or drill holes in those used for playground equipment to allow them to drain.
 - ❑ Turn over or remove plastic pots.
 - ❑ Pick up broken, unused, or discarded toys.
 - ❑ Check tarps on boats or other equipment that may collect water in pockets or indentations.
 - ❑ Pump out bilges on boats.
 - ❑ Replace water in birdbaths at least twice a week.
 - ❑ Replace water in pet or other animal feeding dishes or troughs at least twice a week.
 - ❑ Dispose of broken or unused kiddie pools.
 - ❑ Pick up plastic wrappers used for food or other products; mosquitoes can breed even in a discarded potato chip bag that has collected water.
 - ❑ Don't leave garbage can lids lying around upside down.
 - ❑ Check plants, such as bromeliads, with large leaves that may collect water in axils, where the leaves join the stem. Eliminate the plant, keep it inside, or flush it with a spray of water or tip the plant over to empty stagnant water at least twice a week.
 - ❑ Check holes in trees or stumps that may collect water; remove stumps, plug holes with sand or cement, or flush out with a spray of water at least twice a week.
 - ❑ Change water in bottom of plant containers, including hanging plants, at least twice a week.
 - ❑ Remove vegetation or obstructions in drainage ditches that prevent the flow of water.
 - ❑ Fix dripping outdoor faucets that create pools of water.



City of Jacksonville
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Spray Requests: (904) 630-CITY (630-2489)
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Tips for Avoiding and Repelling Mosquitoes

- Mosquitoes generally are more prevalent in wooded, swampy areas, and tend to be most active during dawn and dusk hours.
- However, the Asian Tiger mosquito, introduced into Florida in 1986, feeds during the day, and is found in close proximity to human habitation. If you notice biting mosquitoes during the day, follow the same recommendations as those for high-risk times and places.
- Wear protective clothing; long pants, long-sleeve shirt, shoes and socks during times and in locations of high mosquito incidence. Be aware mosquitoes can bite right through t-shirts and other lightweight, tight-fitting clothing.
- During periods of excessively high mosquito incidence, stay indoors as much as possible.
- Use EPA-registered insect repellent before going into high-risk areas or when outside during high-risk times. The most effective protection may be obtained through the use of products containing at least 20 to 30 percent diethyl toluamide (DEET)*. Follow the directions carefully and do not over apply. Mosquitoes will bite unprotected skin, so apply repellent to all exposed areas of the body as well as to your clothing. Do not allow repellent to get into your eyes, mouth, or nose. CDC also recommends repellent that contains IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus or picaridin (autan or bayrepel).
- Do not rely on electronic bug killers or ultrasonic repellents for protection. They have not been shown to be effective.
- When in high-risk locations or during high-risk times, do not wear perfumed soaps, sprays or other sweet smelling formulas that might attract mosquitoes.
- Keep windows screens and screened doors in good repair. Screen doors should open outward and have automatic closing devices and latches to prevent them from being accidentally left ajar.
- Extra care should be taken with children under age 5, adults over age 55, and those with weakened immune systems due to chronic illness. Those populations are at greater risk from mosquito-borne diseases.
- Studies have shown that those who take precautions are much less likely to be at risk from mosquito-borne diseases.

**Some people may be sensitive to DEET and experience skin reactions such as rashes. A very small number of more serious cases involving children (including a few deaths) have been reported that may have been linked to the repellent. For this reason, health officials recommend that products containing DEET not be used on children age five and under. Those with concerns should consult their family physician or pediatrician. For those who are sensitive to DEET, products containing oil of citronella may provide an alternative.*



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