

# Mosquito-Proof Your Yard Habitat Checklist



Use this checklist to help you find and eliminate the places where mosquitoes breed around your home. Any container that holds water can be a home for mosquito larvae. After 7 days, larvae will become adult mosquitoes. Remember to stay aware and to keep containers free of standing water.

**WATER + 7 DAYS =  
MOSQUITOES!**



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**Buckets**  
Empty buckets and turn them over.

**Gutters**  
Keep gutters clean and properly pitched.



**Garbage cans and recycling bins**  
Drill drainage holes in the bottoms of garbage cans and recycling bins and keep them covered to prevent water from getting in.



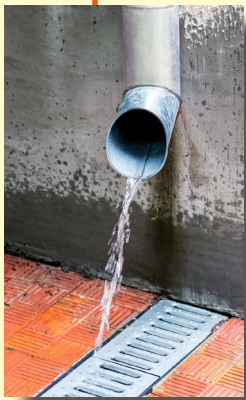
**Portable basketball hoops and playsets**  
Make sure caps for basketball hoop fill holes are in place; replace if lost. Dry off playsets to prevent standing water.



**Leaky hose spigots**  
Fix leak or call a professional plumber.



**Decks and Porches**  
Make sure to check under decks and porches for containers that may hold water.



**Flexible downspout extensions**  
Pitch downspout extensions so water drains completely after it rains or replace with a non-flexible extension that is pitched to drain fully. Keep the inside free of debris.



**Kiddie pools**  
Empty or change the water every 5-7 days. Be sure to store indoors or turn over when not in use.

**Big plastic toys, wagons, etc.**  
Keep toys turned over or inside when not in use. If water can get inside the toy or tire swing, drill drainage holes in the bottom.



**Tarps, plastic bags and sheets**  
Keep tarps tight and refit them if water collects.



**Bird Baths**  
Change water at least once a week.



**Deflated toys**  
Drain off water, dry out, and store indoors when not in use.



**Sand boxes**  
Drill small drainage holes in the bottom of the sand box.

**Watering Cans**  
Empty and store upside down or in a garage or shed.



**Pet dishes and planter saucers**  
Dump the water out or rinse the dish or saucer every 3-5 days.



**Self-watering planters**  
Tightly seal the watering hole after adding water. The most effective method for preventing mosquitoes is to not use these planters.



**Wheelbarrows**  
Turn wheelbarrows over or store them upright. Check them weekly and empty any water found.

**Planters without drainage holes**  
Drill holes in the bottom of your planter.

**Rain Barrels**  
Cover tops of rain barrels with tightly fitted screen. (Use nylon window screen and secure with a bungee cord or other tight elastic.) Mosquitoes will use the overflow hole to get in and lay their eggs; either plug hole or contact your local mosquito control agency for guidance.\*



**Decorative Ponds**  
Add a fountain, waterfall or other device to prevent standing water, or contact your local mosquito control agency on how to treat for mosquito larvae.\*

**Boats**  
Empty all the water possible. Cover boats in storage with tight-fitting tarps or use boat shrink wrap.



**Behind the shed and under shrubs**  
Look under bushes and in overlooked spots in the yard and remove debris that can hold water.



**Pools and pool covers**  
Keep pool covers tight. If you know of an abandoned home in your neighborhood with a neglected pool, contact your local mosquito control agency.\*



**Jet skis**  
Rinse out the foot depressions with a hose every week. Jet skis can be tightly tarped or stored indoors.

\*For contact information on your local mosquito control agency, visit <http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/pcp/bpo-mfacencies.htm>.

The Monmouth County Mosquito Control Division is acknowledged for information contained in this brochure.