

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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Habitat Checklist:

Buckets, Wheelbarrows, and Watering Cans

- Empty and turn them over. Store in a shed or garage.

Pools

- Keep pool covers tight.
- Empty or change the water in kiddie pools every 5-7 days. Turn over when not in use.
- Contact a local mosquito control agency, if you see an abandoned home in your neighborhood with a pool.*

Plastic and Deflated Toys, Wagons, Sandboxes and Playsets

- Keep toys turned over or inside when not in use. If water gets inside the toy, tire swing, or sandbox, drill drainage holes in the bottom.
- Make sure caps for basketball hoop fill holes are in place.
- Dry off playsets to prevent standing water.
- Drain off water from deflated toys, dry out, and store indoors when not in use.

Decorative Ponds and Hose Spigots

- Fix a leaky spigot or call a professional plumber.
- Add a fountain, waterfall or other device to prevent standing water in decorative ponds, or contact your local mosquito control agency on how to treat for mosquito larvae.*

Boats and Jet Skis

- Rinse and empty all water. Use tight-fitting tarps or boat shrink wrap. Keep tarps tight and refit them if water collects.

Garbage Cans and Recycle Bins

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

Bird Baths and Pet Dishes

- Dump water from pet dishes every three to five days.
- Change bird bath water at least once a week.

Planters

- Drill holes in the bottom where necessary, but tightly seal holes in self-watering planters.

Gutters, Downspouts and Rain Barrels

- Keep gutters and downspouts clean, free of debris, and properly pitched so water drains completely.
- Cover tops of rain barrels with tightly fitted screen and secure with tight elastic.
- Plug overflow holes or contact your local mosquito control agency for guidance.*

Decks, Porches, Sheds and Under Shrubs

- Make sure to check under decks and porches for containers that may hold water.
- Look behind sheds, under bushes and in overlooked spots in the yard and remove debris that can hold water.

