Mosquito-Proof Your Yard

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 alert to areas around your home and eliminate any places where standing water may accumulate.
Buckets
Empty buckets and turn them over.

Gutters
Keep gutters clean and properly pitched.

Portables 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.

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.

Leaky hose spigots
Fix leak or call a professional plumber.

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.

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.

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

Habitat Checklist
Mosquito-Proof Your Yard

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Leaky hose spigots
Fix leak or call a professional plumber.

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.

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