

How to Prevent Mosquitoes from Breeding

Mosquitoes require standing water to lay their eggs. By reducing the amount of standing water on your property, you can significantly decrease mosquito breeding around your home. Elimination of potential breeding sites should begin in early April and monitoring should continue throughout the summer. Take these steps to reduce your risk for West Nile Virus:



Image courtesy of Illinois Department of Public Health
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Other precautions:

- Keep grass cut short and trim shrubs to eliminate hiding places for mosquitoes. Don't allow grass clippings and debris to clog street gutters: these are prime breeding sites.
- Ensure your home has tight-fitting screens.

1. Clean birdbaths twice a week and maintain ornamental ponds.
2. Cover or turn over any toy, garden equipment or container that can hold water. Drill holes in the bottoms of containers that cannot be removed.
3. Clean roof gutters and remove standing water from flat roofs. Place screens over rain barrels.
4. Repair outdoor faucets that leak. Change water in outside pet bowls daily.
5. Store small boats upside down. Be sure boat covers are completely drained when stored.
6. Fill in hollow tree stumps and rot holes that hold water with sand or concrete.
7. Dispose of, or store in a dry place, any cans, bottles, tires, etc. that may hold water.
8. Clean and chlorinate swimming pools and hot tubs. Be sure rainwater does not collect on covers. Turn over wading pools when not in use.