

HOMEOWNERS GUIDE FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL

Homeowner Control Tips

Mosquitoes are an all too familiar summer nuisance. They are not only annoying, but, they present potential health hazards by acting as transmitters of diseases such as encephalitis, malaria, and yellow fever to humans, and heartworms to pets. There are positive steps you, the homeowner, can take to reduce this menace since many generations of mosquitoes can breed right in your own yard.

Spray mosquito roosting areas. Follow a regular spraying program. Malathion is the recommended insecticide, and is most commonly used by homeowners for long-term control of mosquitoes outside the home. Spray where mosquitoes rest during the heat of the day—in the cool leafy shade of shrubs, bushes, vines, flowers, and in patches of tall grass and weeds. Also, spray sheltered surfaces outside the home such as roof eaves, breezeways, garages, and the ceilings and screens of porches.

Eliminate potential breeding grounds around your home. Spraying where the adult mosquitoes hide will help reduce the mosquito menace around your property, and increase your enjoyment of summer living outdoors.

Check Your Yard & Home

- YOU SHOULD...Get rid of old tires, tin cans, bottles, jars, buckets, drums, and other containers, or keep them empty of water.
- YOU SHOULD...Empty your Small toddler-size plastic wading pool weekly and store it indoors when not in use. Make certain your backyard swimming pool is properly cared for while on vacation.
- YOU SHOULD...Check outside faucets and air conditioner units. Repair leaks or puddles that remain for several days.
- YOU SHOULD...Change water twice each week and scrub vases that hold flowers or cuttings. Scrub and change water in bird baths twice weekly. Empty your pet's water bowls daily.

Mosquito Protection

- Limit outside activity around dawn and dusk.
- Wear protective clothing when outside, such as lightweight long pants and long sleeve shirts.
- Apply insect repellent to exposed skin when outside.
- Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens, and that tears and holes are repaired.
- Drain all standing water on your property.
- Make sure roof gutters drain properly.
- Remove standing water that is under or around structures or on flat roofs.
- Do not over-water lawns and gardens.
- Stock permanent ponds or fountains with fish that eat mosquito larvae.
- Eliminate seepage and standing water from cisterns, cesspools, septic tanks, and animal watering tanks.

For additional information, contact:

South Dakota Department of Health

615 East 4th Street

Pierre, SD 57501

Phone: 1-800-592-1861

Website: www.state.sd.us/doh/WestNile

SD Cooperative Extension Service

Website: <http://sdces.sdstate.edu/>