

HOMEOWNERS GUIDE FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL



PROTECTING HOUSE AND YARD

The key to keeping mosquitoes out of your house and yard is by denying the female mosquitoes a comfortable place to lay their eggs. It takes energy for mosquitoes to fly. If you're breeding them in your yard, you're going to be the first one they're going to bite, say mosquito-control experts.

House mosquitoes are drawn to muddy, murky bodies of water. *Culex* mosquitoes enjoy being inside the house so they can feed on people and pets. Keep your house and yard free of containers that are filled with standing water and you've won half the battle.

Rain gutters should be scrupulously clean because *Culex* mosquitoes are partial to water logged, decaying leaves.

Don't allow water to accumulate for more than a few days in any container. Mosquitoes can multiply in untended dog bowls, birdbaths, bird feeders, flowerpot saucers, wheelbarrows, children's wading pools, and the water that collects in swimming pool covers. Mosquitoes will not breed in aboveground or in-ground swimming pools that are kept clean and properly chlorinated.

If you see a mosquito indoors, kill it immediately. You can swat it with your hand without fear of contracting West Nile virus. It takes an actual bite from a mosquito in order to transmit West Nile virus.

PREVENTING BITES

The most effective way to avoid bites is to stay inside when mosquitoes are active. For *Culex* and most mosquitoes, that means at dusk and throughout the evening. If you must go outside, wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing that covers as much of your skin as comfort permits. Mosquitoes will bite right through tight-fitting fabrics. Avoid perfumes and after shaves because they will attract some mosquitoes. Wear a repellent on exposed skin. Repellents should last no longer than the amount of time that you're going to be outdoors.

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