



MOSQUITO HABITAT CHECKLIST

Container mosquitoes are the #1 mosquito problem in Monmouth County!

WATER +7 DAYS = MOSQUITOES

Use this checklist to help you find and eliminate all the places that mosquitoes breed around your home. Any container that holds water can be a home for mosquito larvae. After 7 days, larvae will emerge as adult mosquitoes. Remember to stay vigilant and to keep containers free of standing water all year long.

COMMON HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- Buckets**
Problem: Buckets are the most common mosquito habitats found at homes.
Solution: Empty buckets and turn them over.
- Garbage cans and recycling bins**
Problem: Garbage cans, recycling bins, and recycled containers can hold water.
Solution: Drill drainage holes in the bottoms of garbage cans and bins, keep covered and dispose of recycling weekly.
- Tarps, plastic bags and sheets**
Problem: When tarps are not fitted tightly, multiple pockets form and collect water.
Solution: Keep tarps tight and refit them if water collects.

BUILDING STRUCTURES

- Gutters**
Problem: Gutters hold water when clogged with leaves or improperly pitched. Plus the leaf debris provides food for the larvae
Solution: Keep gutters clean and properly pitched.
- Flexible downspout extensions**
Problem: Improper pitch and ridges cause these pipes to hold water.
Solution: 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**
Problem: Water can accumulate below the faucet.
Solution: Fix leak or call a professional plumber.
- Decks & Porches**
Make sure to check under decks and porches for containers that may hold water.

AROUND THE GARDEN

- Planter saucers**
Problem: If a plant saucer holds water for 5-7 days it will support mosquito larvae.
Solution: Dump the water out every 3-5 days or don't use a saucer at all.
- Planters without drainage holes**
Problem: Planters fill with water after heavy rains.
Solution: Drill holes in the bottom of your planter – it's healthier for your plants.
- Self-watering planters**
Problem: The hole used to water the plant is also used by the female mosquito to access the water and lay eggs.
Solution: Tightly seal the watering hole after adding water. If this is not possible, treat the reservoir water with a Bti* product. The most effective method for preventing mosquitoes is to not use these planters.
- Wheelbarrows**
Problem: Water collects in the main tub or small crevices inherent in their construction.
Solution: Turn wheelbarrows over or store them on end. If crevices present, check weekly and move to empty any water you find.
- Watering Cans**
Problem: Watering cans holding water for many days will attract egg laying mosquitoes.
Solution: Empty and store upside down or in a garage or shed.
- Rain Barrels**
Problem: Rain barrels conserve water but can also be a perfect home for mosquito larvae.
Solution: Cover tops of rain barrels with tightly fitted screen. (Use nylon window screen and secure with a bungee cord or other tight elastic.) Mosquitoes will use the overflow hole to get in and lay their eggs; either plug hole or treat with a Bti* product.
- Bird Baths**
Problem: Unless water is changed regularly, mosquito larvae flourish.
Solution: Change water at least once a week.
- Ornamental ponds**
Problem: Ornamental ponds without fish provide a great home for mosquitoes.
Solution: Get fish. If that is not an option, you can use Bti* to treat for mosquito larvae.
- Behind the shed & under the shrubs**
Problem: Discarded and unattended items in hard to reach spaces can collect water.
Solution: Look under bushes and in overlooked spots in the yard and remove debris that can hold water.