

Mosquitoes

The Mosquito Problem

Mosquitoes are blood-sucking insects that feed on humans and other animals. When a mosquito bites you, it injects a small amount of fluid under your skin, creating a small, itchy bump. This fluid can spread viruses, including West Nile Virus to humans. Mosquitoes can also spread heart worms to dogs. During the summer months, Tri-County Health Department traps mosquitoes to monitor potential disease outbreaks associated with mosquitoes.

**FIGHT
THE BITE!**



**JOIN THE "SWAT TEAM"
AGAINST WEST NILE VIRUS**

Dawn/Dusk

- Mosquitoes are most active at dawn and dusk. Try to plan your outdoor activities during daylight hours or later in the evening.
- Steer clear of trees, bushes, and high grasses where mosquitoes may hide during the day.
- Keep grass cut short and bushes trimmed back to eliminate places for mosquitoes to hide.
- Avoid wearing perfume or scented products as they may attract mosquitoes.



How Do I Keep Mosquitoes Away?

Use Repellents

- Use insect repellent containing DEET (N,N-dethyl-m-toluamide), Picaridin, IR3535, 2-undecanone, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Read the directions on the label and follow the instructions carefully.
- Check with your child's doctor before applying repellent to an infant or child.
- Apply repellent sparingly and only on exposed skin.
- Keep repellents away from eyes, nostrils, and lips; do not inhale or ingest. Avoid applying repellents to areas on children's hands that are likely to have contact with eyes or mouth.
- Pregnant or nursing women should minimize use of repellents.
- Never use repellent on wounds or irritated skin.
- Reapply repellents as needed. Saturation does not increase effectiveness.
- Wash repellent-treated skin after going indoors.

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Defend

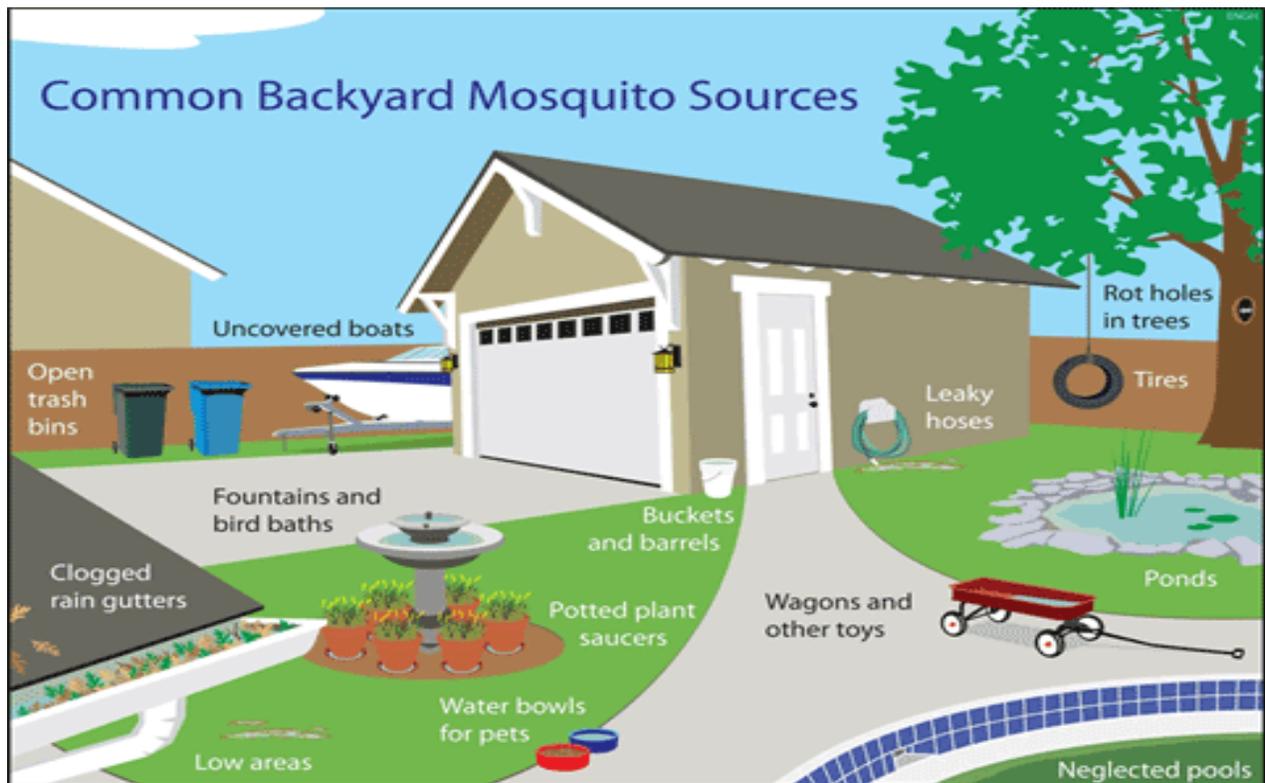
- Mosquito dunks are corn cobs containing BTi, a ground dwelling bacteria that occurs naturally and kills mosquito larvae.
- Mosquito dunks can be used to kill mosquito larvae in bodies of water that cannot be drained (e.g. ponds, large puddles, low spots in fields).
- Attach door sweeps to the bottom of outside doors; consider using self-closing mechanisms.
- Repair any holes in screened doors or windows.
- Use mesh screens to cover ventilation panels in the kitchen and bathroom.

Dress

- Wear light colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- When practical, wear long-sleeved shirts and pants when you are outside.

Drain

- Drain any standing water found around your home weekly.
- Store wheelbarrows, buckets and empty flower pots upside-down.
- Empty out children's wading pools, bird baths, and pet's water dishes daily.
- Drill holes in swings (especially tire swings) to allow rain water to drain. Remove waste tires.
- Repair all leaking faucets and hoses.
- Check roofs and gutters to ensure they're in good condition and not collecting puddles.
- Make sure ditches and retention ponds are clean and drain properly.
- Stock ponds with fish, such as *Gambusia affinis*, that eat mosquito larvae.



For more information, visit <http://www.tchd.org/387/Animals-Bugs-Pests> or if you have any questions, please call your local Tri-County Health Department office.