

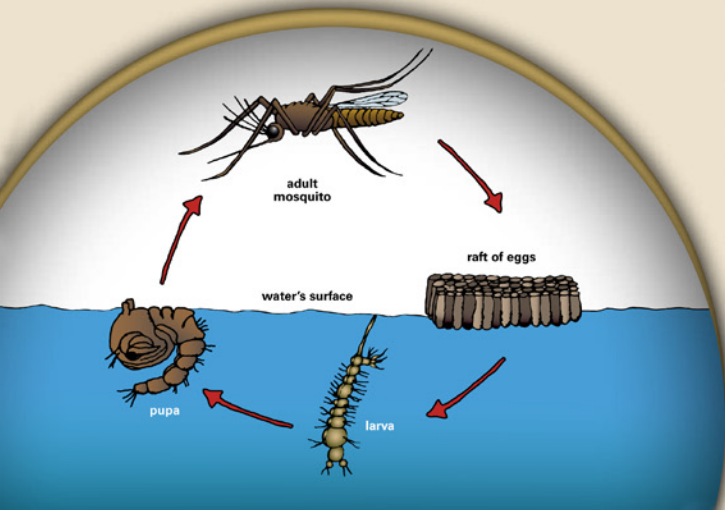
THE FACTS ABOUT MOSQUITOES

Mosquitoes can transmit a variety of diseases and parasites to people and animals including West Nile virus, Western equine, encephalomyelitis virus, dog heartworm, St. Louis encephalitis virus and malaria.

Adult female mosquitoes acquire disease by feeding on infected animals such as birds or rodents. Bites from infected mosquitoes transmit disease to people and animals. There are approximately 3,500 species of mosquitoes worldwide.

Mosquitoes need water to develop

The illustration below shows the mosquito life cycle from egg to larva to pupa to adult. The first three stages of the mosquito life cycle are spent in the water. You can prevent mosquitoes from developing by removing or draining standing water that support this life cycle. In warm temperatures, mosquitoes can develop in as little as three days!



Egg stage

An adult female mosquito can lay approximately 100-400 eggs in clusters called rafts, which float on the surface of the water, or eggs may be laid singly on the surface of the water or the water's edge (depending on the species of mosquito). Within 2-3 days the eggs hatch into larvae.



Larval stage

Larvae can be found close to the surface of the water where they breathe and feed. Larvae are found in a wide variety of standing water sources including neglected swimming pools, rice fields, irrigated pastures, ditches, storm drains, household containers, tree holes, ponds, horse troughs, and even discarded tires. Larvae shed their skin four times during the next several days or weeks, finally changing into a pupa.



Pupal stage

In the pupal stage, the mosquito grows inside of a cocoon-like shell. Once fully developed, the pupal skin splits and the mosquito emerges as an adult.

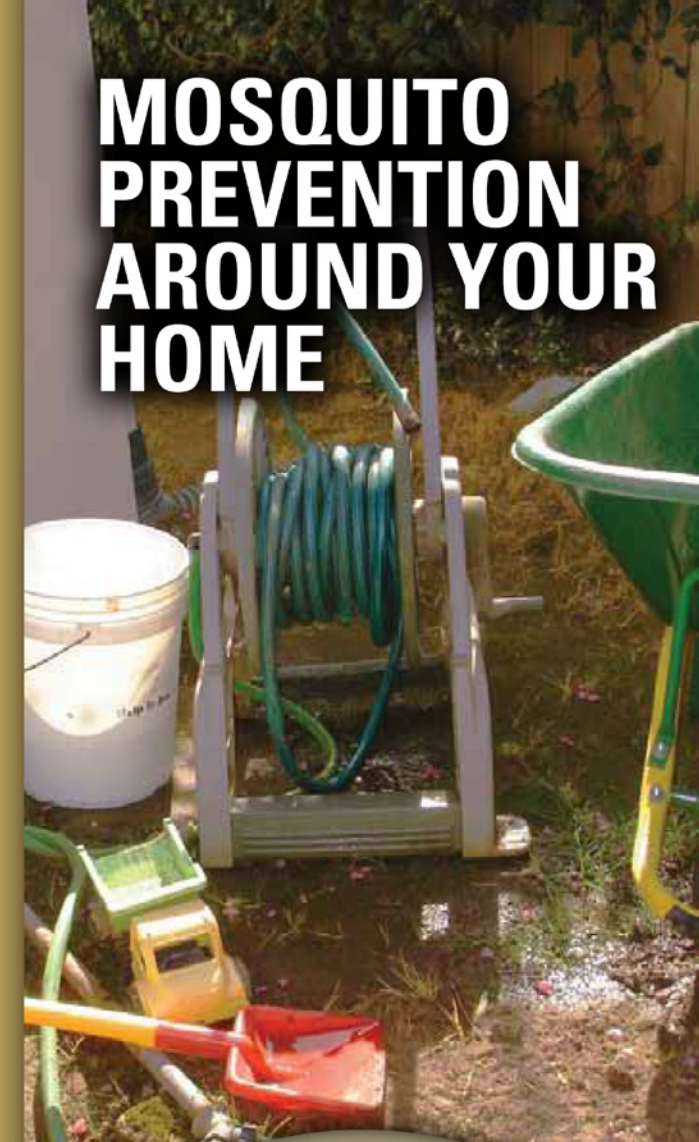


Adult stage

The newly emerged adult mosquito rests on the surface of the water until it is strong enough to fly. Female mosquitoes require a blood meal to lay eggs and are attracted by heat and carbon dioxide to hosts such as humans, mammals, and birds. Diseases are transmitted when female mosquitoes feed on an infected host and then feed on an uninfected host.



MOSQUITO PREVENTION AROUND YOUR HOME



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Mahoning County
District Board of Health

50 Westchester Drive
Youngstown, Ohio 44515
(330) 270-2855

www.mahoninghealth.org

Toll Free for Mahoning County Residents
1-800-873-MCHD



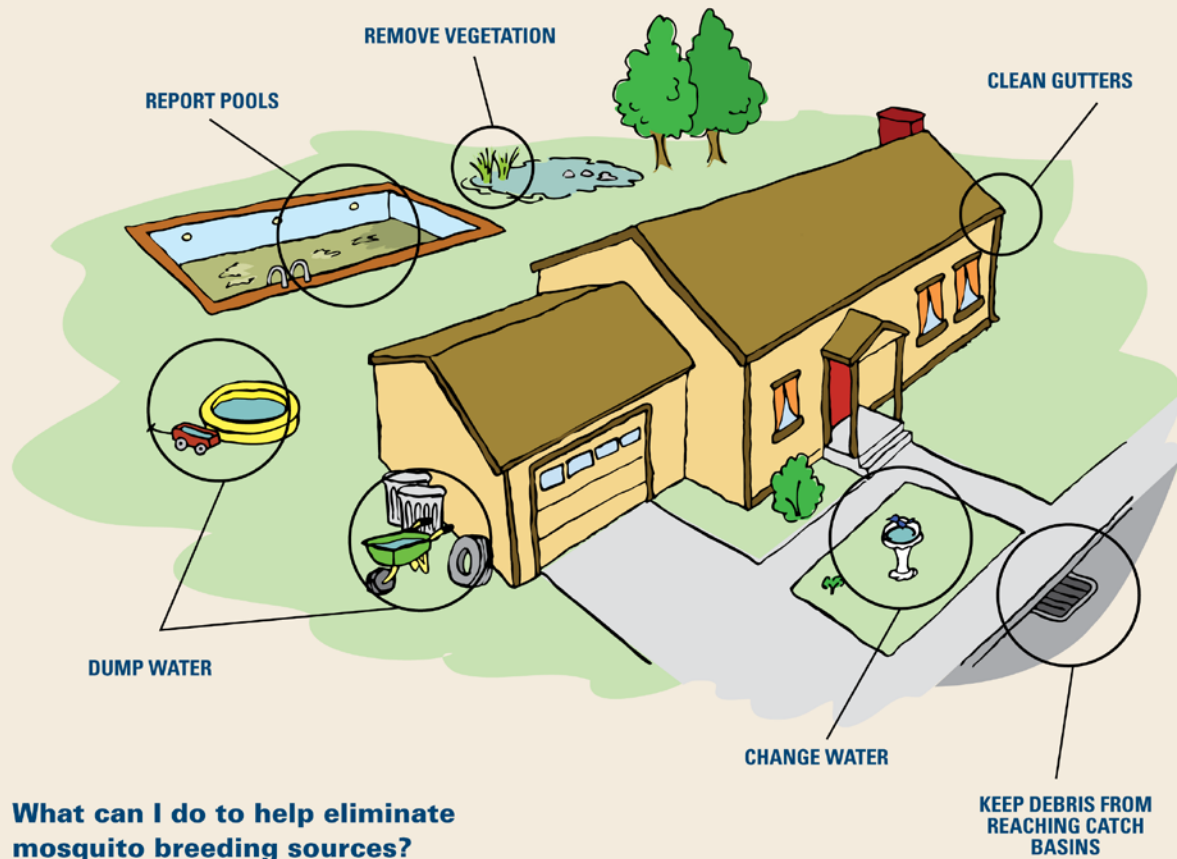
Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Mahoning County
District Board of Health

This publication has been produced with the permission of the Butte County Mosquito & Vector Control District of California.

COMMON BACKYARD MOSQUITO SOURCES

Backyards are the #1 source for mosquito production. Anything that can hold water for more than five to seven days has the ability to produce mosquitoes. Maintain, manage or eliminate all types of standing water on a regular basis. Keep in mind that mosquitoes need as little as half an inch of water to complete their life cycle, therefore some areas may not be as obvious as others.



What can I do to help eliminate mosquito breeding sources?

- Change** water in pet dishes and bird baths at least once a week.
- Dump** out water from buckets, pots, tires, garbage cans, and other outdoor containers.
- Remove** vegetation and debris from the edges of ponds.
- Report** neglected swimming pools.

Use this checklist to help minimize mosquito production around your home.

- Trash bins:** Keep lids shut tight and remove any water that may have accumulated inside.
- Boats:** Cover with a tight fitting tarp.
- Fountains and bird baths:** Clean or hose out weekly.
- Rain gutters:** Keep clear of leaves and other debris.
- Potted plant saucers:** Don't over water. Flush out saucers with a hose or drill holes in the bottom to allow for better drainage.
- Tires:** Drill holes in tire swings. Recycle used tires or store in a covered area.
- Water bowls for pets:** Rinse and fill with fresh water 1 to 2 times a week.
- Water troughs:** Stock with mosquitofish.
- Leaky hoses:** Replace damaged hoses and fix leaky faucets and pipes.
- Low areas:** Do not over water lawns or gardens.
- Ponds:** Stock ornamental ponds with mosquitofish. Keep ponds free and clear of excess vegetation.
- Pools and spas:** Maintain even when not in use. Remove standing water from the top of pool and spa covers. If you know of a neglected pool or spa please contact the District.
- Containers:** Store containers upside down, cover or place in a sheltered area.
- Rain Barrels:** Cover tightly with a fine mesh screen.
- Chain link fence:** Cover hollow chain link fence posts with metal or plastic caps.
- Drains:** Make sure that drains are flowing freely.
- Flat roofs:** Water may puddle on flat roofs during the rainy season. Inspect weekly and remove any standing water.
- Lighting:** Check garden lights and eliminate water from tops of fixtures and from inside floodlights.
- Sculptures:** Check for water that may collect in lawn ornaments. Drain or flush out weekly.
- Screens:** Install and maintain tight-fitting window and door screens.
- Rot holes in trees:** Be aware that water can collect in rot holes, crotches and dead tree stumps. Check with an arborist for best way to manage water or fill cavities.
- Water under home:** Use a sump pump to remove water.
- Septic tanks:** Screen vent pipes with a fine mesh screen. Cover exposed tanks or manhole lids with plastic or a similar material and secure in place. Place several inches, or more, of dirt or sand over the top of the area.