



# Mosquito Prevention and Protection



## Always remember the 3 D's of protection from mosquitoes

### Drain

Many mosquito problems in your neighborhood are likely to come from water-filled containers that you, the resident, can help to eliminate. All mosquitoes require water in which to breed. Be sure to drain any standing water around your house.

- Dispose of any tires. Tires can breed thousands of mosquitoes.
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers.
- Clear roof gutters of debris.
- Clean pet water dishes regularly.
- Check and empty children's toys.
- Repair leaky outdoor faucets.
- Change the water in bird baths at least once a week.
- Canoes and other boats should be turned over.
- Avoid water collecting on pool covers.
- Empty water collected in tarps around the yard or on woodpiles.
- Plug tree holes.
- Even the smallest of containers that can collect water can breed hundreds to thousands of mosquitoes. They don't need much water to lay their eggs. (bottles, barrels, buckets, overturned garbage can lids, etc.)



### Dress

Wear light colored, loose fitting clothing. Studies have shown that some of the 174 mosquito species in the United States are more attracted to dark clothing and most can readily bite through tight-fitting clothing of loose weave. When practical, wear long sleeves and pants.



### Defend

Choose a mosquito repellent that has been registered by the Environmental Protection Agency. Registered products have been reviewed, approved, and pose minimal risk for human safety when used according to label directions. Four repellents that are approved and recommended are:

- DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide)
- Picaridin (KBR 3023)
- Oil of lemon eucalyptus (p-methane 3,8-diol, or PMD)
- IR3535

### Here are some rules to follow when using repellents:

- Read the directions on the label carefully before applying.
- Apply repellent sparingly, only to exposed skin (not on clothing).
- Keep repellents away from eyes, nostrils and lips: do not inhale or ingest repellents or get them into the eyes.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) suggests that DEET-based repellents can be used on children as young as two months of age. Generally, the AAP recommends concentrations of 10% or less, unless disease risk is imminent, then concentration can be increased to 30% or less.
- Avoid applying repellents to portions of children's hands that are likely to have contact with eyes or mouth.
- Repellents can be used by pregnant or nursing women. The EPA does not recommend any additional precautions for repellent use by pregnant or nursing women.
- Never use repellents on wounds or irritated skin.
- Use repellent sparingly and reapply as needed. Saturation does not increase efficacy.
- Wash repellent-treated skin after coming indoors.
- If a suspected reaction to insect repellents occurs, wash treated skin, and call a physician. Take the repellent container to the physician.



[mosquito.org](http://mosquito.org)

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# Protect Yourself From Mosquito Bites and Disease

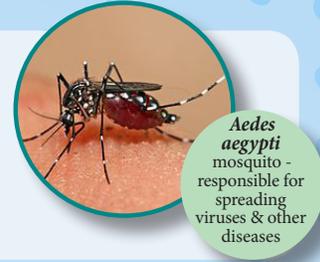
## Eliminate Mosquito Breeding Areas Around Your Home



The Seminole County Mosquito Control Program is asking for your help to prevent the following viruses and other diseases transmitted by mosquitoes:

**West Nile Virus • Eastern Equine Encephalitis • Dengue fever • Chikungunya (2013)**

You can help by eliminating standing water from any containers, and by protecting yourself and your family from mosquito bites. See below for more information.



### Help Prevent Mosquito Diseases

#### Drain and Cover

**DRAIN** standing water from any container where sprinkler or rain water has collected. Consult the graphic below to find places where water may collect around the outside of your home.

**COVER** your bare skin and clothing with repellent if you must be outside when mosquitoes are most active during the hours of dusk and dawn. Several disease-carrying mosquitoes are daytime biters and usually do not fly far from the containers where they spend their immature life stages. Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and long sleeves.

Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, and IR3535 are effective. Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months. The use of repellents that are combined with sunscreen is not recommended. Apply sunscreen first, then apply repellent to make sure that each product works as intended.

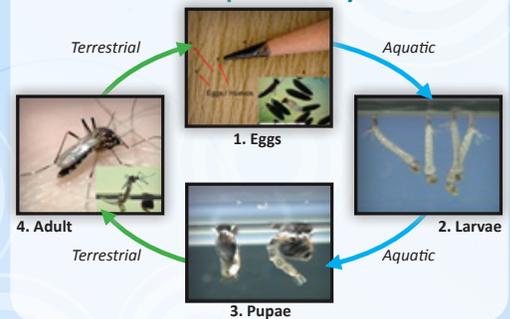


### Mosquito Facts & Biology

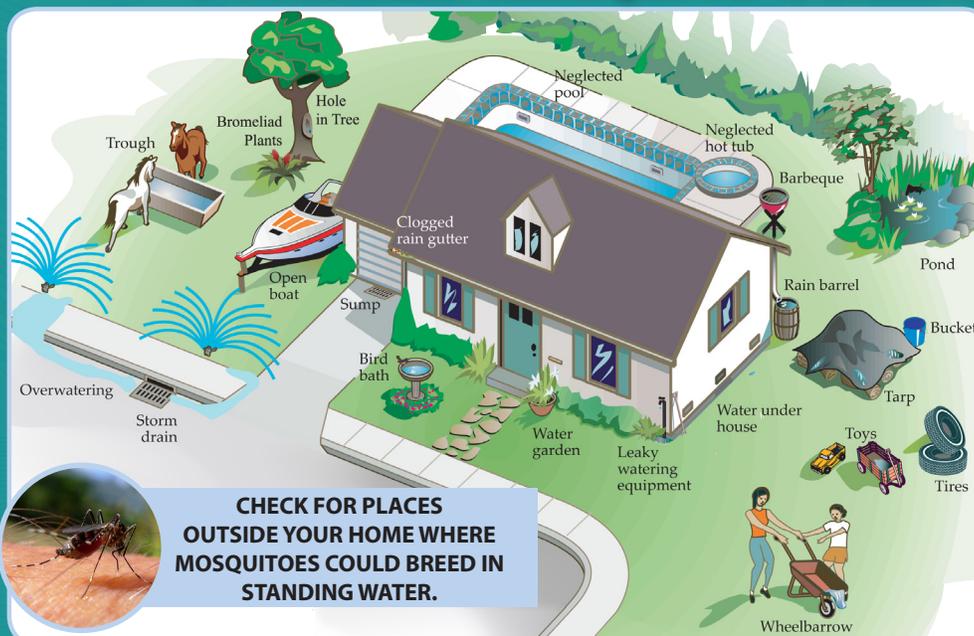
Did you know that mosquitoes must have water to develop, that only female mosquitoes bite (take a blood meal), and can live for several weeks and lay hundreds of eggs? Check out the mosquito life cycle below to learn more about these insects.

1. The eggs are laid on water, on the side of containers, or moist soil that may flood.
2. Larvae hatch from the eggs and live, feed, and grow in the water.
3. Larvae become pupae then after 2 or 3 days adult mosquitoes emerge from the pupae.
4. Adult female mosquitoes fly off in search of a blood meal, lay eggs a few days later, and then the cycle begins again.

#### The Mosquito Life Cycle



## POTENTIAL MOSQUITO BREEDING AREAS



**CHECK FOR PLACES OUTSIDE YOUR HOME WHERE MOSQUITOES COULD BREED IN STANDING WATER.**

#### OTHER TIPS TO PREVENT MOSQUITOES

- Repair screening on windows, doors, porches & patios.
- Keep gutters clear so they will drain properly.
- Check & empty:
  - Children's toys
  - Trash cans & lids
  - Untreated swimming pools
  - Uncovered boats/watercrafts that are not draining water
- Change water in birdbaths & flush bromeliads once or twice a week.
- Do not allow water to accumulate in flower pots or dishes for more than 2 days.
- Check around faucets & air conditioner units, repair leaks & eliminate puddles that remain for several days.
- Fill tree holes & rotten tree stumps with spray foam insulation.
- Irrigate lawns & gardens carefully to prevent water from standing for several days.