

MOSQUITOES

Mosquitoes can be a serious problem. They get in the way of work and spoil your time outdoors. Additionally, mosquitoes carry diseases like West Nile virus that infect man and animals. Mosquitoes are often a community problem. Call your local health department and ask about mosquito control programs in your area.

Mosquitoes need blood to make eggs. Body heat, your breath, and certain colors attract mosquitoes. Many people use insect repellents to protect their family against mosquitoes. If you use insect repellents properly, they will keep mosquitoes away. Remember that some insect repellents are poisons, and they may hurt your family if you do not use them the right way.



The following 7 steps will help you control mosquitos and protect your health:

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Call your Local Cooperative Extension Service office.
Visit our Websites:
www.gafamilies.com
www.entomology.ent.uga.edu

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Gale A. Buchanan, Dean and Director

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HELP!

**Mosquitoes
are biting
my baby!**



STEP

REDUCE THE PROBLEM

1 Mosquitoes must lay their eggs in water. If you can get rid of standing water around your home, you may be able to greatly reduce the number of mosquitoes. Some mosquitoes lay eggs in very small pools of water. Here are some common places to find mosquito-breeding sites around the home.

- **birdbaths** • **clogged gutters** • **old tires** • **watering cans**
- **wading pools and other toys** • **stumps and tree holes**
- **leaky faucets or drain outlets from air conditioning**
- **saucers under flower pots** • **aquariums and ornamental ponds**

After you find the water, you have four choices:

1. Get rid of the water. Fix leaks, fill in tree holes, and throw away old tires or other trash that holds water.
2. Change the water out twice a week. After the eggs hatch, the mosquitoes must stay in the water for 4-10 days. The young mosquitoes look like tiny worms near the top of the water.
3. Treat the water with mosquito dunks or mosquito briquettes. Mosquito dunks/briquettes contain a germ called *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (BTI) that kills mosquitoes. It will not make people, pets, or wildlife sick. Your county Extension office, health department, or garden center can help you find BTI products.
4. Work with your neighbors to establish a community control program. If you are the only person in the neighborhood to get rid of water, it is unlikely that you will reduce mosquitoes. Your local health department can help you with neighborhood program.

Adult mosquitoes like thick vegetation. Keep shrubs trimmed. Keep ground covers, like ivy, cut short.

If you rent your home, ask your landlord to keep the plants trimmed.



KEEP MOSQUITOES OUT

1. Keep window screens and doors in good repair.
2. Screen doors should open outward and have automatic closing devices and latches to prevent them from being accidentally left ajar.
3. Stay inside when a lot of mosquitoes are biting.

STEP

2

STEP

3

When you are outdoors:

1. Wear light colored clothes. Dark colors attract mosquitoes.
2. Wear long pants and a long sleeved shirt.

Mosquitoes may bite through tight clothing.



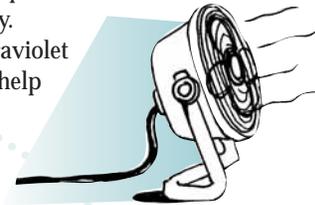
KEEP MOSQUITOES AWAY

1. Sitting in front of a fan will help keep mosquitoes away.
2. Citronella candles and mosquito coils help keep mosquitoes away.
3. Ultrasonic devices and ultraviolet (UV) 'bug zappers' do not help control mosquitoes.



STEP

4



STEP

5

USE REPELLENTS WISELY

Repellents keep mosquitoes from biting you. Some repellents may make you sick if you do not use them the right way.

1. The most effective mosquito repellents contain **DEET**. Look for this name in the ingredient
2. Buy products with less than 10% **DEET** for use on children.
3. Do not let small children apply **DEET**. Do not apply **DEET** to the hands or face of small children.
4. Do not apply **DEET** under your clothes.
5. Do not apply **DEET** to broken skin.
6. Pregnant and nursing women should be extra careful with repellents.
7. When you go back inside, wash the **DEET** from your skin with soap and water.
8. Repellents that contain citrus oils or ingredients are less effective than **DEET**.



KILL MOSQUITOES IN THE HOUSE

STEP

6

If a mosquito is in the house, you can kill it with a flyswatter or newspaper. You should not use pesticides indoors to control mosquitoes.

When the light is turned on, mosquitoes will often hide in a dark area, like under the bed or behind the curtains.



KILL MOSQUITOES OUTDOORS

STEP

7

Foggers can provide relief for a short time from adult mosquitoes in the yard. Other mosquitoes may quickly replace the ones you kill, but foggers can help control mosquitoes for an outdoor party. You can buy a mosquito fogger for about \$60 at home product stores. Be sure to buy the proper insecticide to use with the fogger.

Mosquitoes often rest in shrubs, brush, or ground covers during the day. If you spray these areas, you may reduce the number of mosquitoes for a short time.

NEVER use a farm or garden pesticide for mosquito control unless the pesticide label says that you can. You may make your family sick.

ALWAYS follow all of the directions on the pesticide label.

