



# MOSQUITO SOURCE CHECKLIST FOR HOME INSPECTION

The best method to reduce mosquito breeding on your property is to limit the number of potential sources. Walk your yard and check to see how many of these breeding sites you have on your property. If standing water is found, remove the water or remove the source. If the source is not removed, you must check weekly for standing water to prevent mosquito breeding.

Use this checklist to help you find and eliminate all the places that mosquitoes breed around your home. Remember to remain vigilant to keep containers free of standing water all year long.

## COMMON HOUSEHOLD ITEMS HOW TO CORRECT

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Any container capable of holding at least a teaspoon of water 1/4" deep</b>                                | Throw away, turn over, empty once a week or drill holes in the bottom.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Buckets, watering cans, drinking glasses, styrofoam cups, bottle caps, other trash that can hold water</b> | Store inside or turn over. If trash, throw away.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Old tires</b>  | Dispose of at your local recycling facility. If used for playground equipment, drill holes for water to run out. If on ground, be sure holes are not blocked by debris. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Pet water bowls</b>  | Rinse out once a week.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Potted plant saucers</b>   | Empty saucers or flush out with garden hose once a week. Remove saucers from under plants. Place fine aquarium gravel in saucers.                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Tarps or other plastic covers, flexible sandbox covers</b>   | Drain water trapped in folds and arrange so that water runs off.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Garbage cans, other barrels, recycling bins, upturned garbage can lids</b>                                 | Keep cans covered or drill holes in bottom. Keep lid on can or turned so water runs off. If collecting rain water, cover with screen.                                   |

## BUILDING & STRUCTURES HOW TO CORRECT

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Dripping outdoor faucets and window air conditioners</b>  | If puddling, repair faucet. Place rocks under window air conditioner to ensure water runs off or fill hole with dirt. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Drainage ditch, culvert or other low areas clogged by grass and weed clippings</b>                    | Remove grass and weed clippings so water can flow and/or drain freely.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Gutters, including "covered" types</b>  | Clean so water runs freely.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Hollow fence posts without caps</b>   | Put caps on open chain link or plastic fence posts.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Old playground equipment</b>  | Remove and dispose of. If it must be stored, put under cover. Be sure water drains off.                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Sump pumps</b>  | Cover with screening  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Under decks, porches or outbuildings: stored items, depressions in dirt or plastic ground linings</b> | Fill in depressions. Remove or turn over any stored items that hold water.  |

## AROUND THE BACKYARD / GARDEN HOW TO CORRECT

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Base of patio umbrella or portable basketball stand</b> | Fill with sand or, if filled with water, be sure to screw on plug. Keep water out of depressions on stand also.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Bird baths</b>  | Dump out once a week or flush out with garden hose.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Bromeliads (plants that hold water)</b>                 | Turn plant over to dump water. For plants too large to turn over, flush out cavities with garden hose once a week. Discard or remove from landscaping if possible. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Ornamental ponds and fountains</b>                      | Stock with mosquitofish, apply larvicide or filter/aerate water.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Outdoor grills</b>                                      | Keep covered. Be sure vent is closed also.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Plastic in gardens to prevent weeds</b>                 | Use landscape cloth that will allow water to pass through instead of plastic sheets that hold water.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Wheelbarrow stored outside</b>                          | Store upside down when not in use.   |

## CHILDREN'S TOYS

## HOW TO CORRECT

|                          |                           |   |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Portable basketball hoops | Make sure caps for fill holes are in place; replace if lost.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Kiddie pools              | Empty or change water in kiddie pools every 5-7 days. Store indoors or turn over when not in use.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sand boxes                | Drill small drainage holes on the bottom of sand box.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Toys, wagons, etc.        | Keep toys turned over or inside when not in use. If water can get inside the plastic toy, so can a mosquito — drill drainage holes in the bottom. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Deflated toys             | Drain off water, dry out, and store indoors when not in use.  |

## RECREATION

## HOW TO CORRECT

|                          |   |   |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Boats, canoes   | Pump out bilges. Turn over canoes and small boats. If not possible to turn over, dump out after each rain.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jet skis  | Rinse out the foot depressions with a hose every week.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Pool pumps and drains   | Check weekly to ensure water is draining from area.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Pools, spas, unused or abandoned swimming pools   | Turn over kiddie pools when not in use. Contact the District for mosquitofish when swimming pools and spas are in non-operational condition. If draining, use wet/dry vacuum to remove water. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Old playground equipment  | Remove and dispose of. If it must be stored, put under cover. Be sure water drains off.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sump pumps  | Cover with screening.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Under decks, porches or outbuildings: stored items, depressions in dirt or plastic ground linings | Fill in depressions. Remove or turn over any stored items that hold water.  |

## INSIDE THE HOME

## HOW TO CORRECT

|                          |  |  |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Flower vase with floral arrangements                                 | Replace water every few days. Scrub interior of vase to eliminate mosquito eggs. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Holiday items such as tree stands                                    | Replace water at least once a week and scrub thoroughly before storage.          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Pet water bowls  | Rinse out once a week.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Potted plants with saucers   | Empty saucers once a week. Remove saucers from under plants.                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Small, decorative fountains or water features                        | Maintain in operational condition or drain entirely                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Standing water in disconnected pipes exposed during home renovations | Temporarily seal disconnected pipes until plumbing system is in working order    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Stagnant toilet water  | Flush water in extra toilet regularly.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Toilet bowl brush holder   | Drain water collected on the bottom of container regularly.                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Under kitchen sink   | Keep space beneath sink clear and free of damp.                                  |

