



Mosquitoes are pests & can spread disease

Household

Adult mosquitoes fly at least one kilometre and often more and breeding is usually continuous. Therefore, killing the adult mosquito today will not prevent problems from newly emerged mosquitoes tomorrow. Adult mosquitoes are usually much more wide spread than the mosquito wrigglers which can occur in very large numbers even in small areas of water. One small pool of water may produce thousands of mosquitoes each week. The easiest way to control mosquitoes is to stop them breeding.

Biting

Only the female mosquitoes bite. They need blood to be able to produce eggs.

While taking blood, infected mosquitoes can pass on disease causing viruses and parasites. Mosquitoes breed in calm water - such as might occur in old tyres, drums, septic tanks, drains, creeks, fresh water swamps, hollow rocks, salt marshes and sewage ponds.

What can you do to help?

Eliminate the breeding areas

- Dispose of all containers which hold water (cover or put holes in them);
- Keep fish ponds stocked with fish;
- Keep edges of ponds and drains clear of grass;
- Keep swimming pools full and properly maintained;
- Fill or drain depressions in the ground that hold water;
- Remove blocked drainage in roof gutters;
- Screen septic tank vents. Seal all gaps;
- Screen rain water tanks and ensure guttering is not holding water.(see treatment solution);
- Empty pot plant drips trays once a week, or fill with sand;

- Maintain drains so water can flow away (2-3 days);
- Don't over irrigate.

Self Protection

- Houses – screen all doors and windows. Screen doors should be self-closing and open outwards;
- Wear loose fitting, light coloured clothing covering up as much of the body as possible. (Mosquitoes can bite through tight fitting clothing ie. jeans);
- Use insect repellents containing DEET (Diethyl toluamide) to cover areas of exposed skin. (Precaution - read the manufacturers instructions).
- Aerosol knockdown or surface insect sprays are also useful for killing mosquitoes. Mosquito coils are also effective in protecting from mosquitoes.

Rainwater tanks

Rainwater tanks can be a potential source of mosquito breeding if the water contained is not protected. Detection of mosquito larvae (wrigglers) in rainwater tanks indicates the presence of an opening through which the female mosquito can enter and lay eggs. The best approach to mosquito control is to keep adult mosquitoes out of tanks.

Exclusion of adult mosquitoes:

- Ensure that the tank is sealed and inspection points are close fitting;
- Screen the water inlet and overflow pipe;
- Seal or repair holes or gaps in the tank due to corrosion or physical damage.

For further information contact Council's Customer Service Centre on 8405 6600