

Anything that will hold water for more than a few days can be a mosquito habitat!



Reducing Mosquitoes Around Your Home

Protection starts with you!

The most efficient ways to control mosquito populations and the spread of West Nile virus are by eliminating the breeding sources of mosquitoes and using an insect repellent containing DEET.

The Health Department uses mosquito larvicide to treat areas of standing water that cannot be easily eliminated and schedules mosquito sprayings when positive findings of the West Nile virus are found in trapped mosquitoes.

Spraying typically takes place from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m., times when people are unlikely to be outdoors.

Follow the Four D's of protection

- **DRAIN** standing water around the home
- **DRESS** to protect yourself with long sleeves and pants to reduce skin exposure
- **DEET** Use insect repellent containing DEET
- **DUSK and DAWN** Avoid being outdoors at DUSK and DAWN when mosquitoes are most active

What you can do...

Fishpond Remove excess vegetation and construct properly

Swimming pool Keep sanitized and filtered; keep water off any cover

Spa, hot tub Keep sanitized, filtered and heated; if no longer in use, keep empty or remove it

Bird bath Flush out completely once a week and refill

Containers Empty, turn over, throw out or cover any container to prevent water from accumulating

Standing water If water stands for more than a week eliminate it by draining or filling

Catch Basin, storm drains Do not throw garbage or garden debris into these as it enhances mosquito habitat

Leaky pipes Drain the area; correct leaky plumbing, dripping air conditioner or refrigerator; water under houses is a mosquito habitat in urban areas

Tires Dispose of properly or cover so that water does not collect inside

Tree holes Inspect for larva during the rainy season; if found, consult a licensed arborist or tree service to determine the best method of eliminating water

Creek Do not throw garden debris into creeks - these obstructions can create mosquito habitat

Irrigation Don't over-irrigate your landscaping; excess water can provide mosquito habitat

City of Richardson Health Department
972-744-4080 www.cor.net/mosquito

