

# A Checklist for Mosquito Control around the Home



You can do a lot to control the number of mosquitoes breeding around your home. As mosquitoes breed in water, removing pools of wastewater from around the home is the best prevention.

Please follow these simple steps to control mosquito breeding around the home. This process should be carried out regularly during the summer months.

- Inspect your house and yard for pools of accumulated water.
- Put sand around the bases of pot plants to absorb water in the dish. For outdoor pot plants you could dispose of the dish altogether.
- Dispose of all tins, jars, tyres and other rubbish items that may hold water.
- At least once a week empty all flower vases, pot plants and other receptacles that hold water. Thoroughly wipe the inside of containers with a cloth to remove mosquito eggs. Destroy the cloth after use by placing in the bin. Do not wash the cloth as this may spread the eggs.
- Screen all openings to tanks, wells or other large water containers with wire gauge no coarser than 1mm mesh. This prevents mosquitoes from laying eggs.
- Fill in any water holding cavities in trees, hollows, depressions and holes in the yard with soil or cement.
- Keep roof guttering in good repair and regularly remove leaves and debris so that pools of water do not form, especially in depressed areas.
- Cut back and trim trees to prevent leaves and debris from blocking roof guttering.
- Dispose of all wastewater in such a way that no ponding occurs.
- Keep fishponds and ornamental ponds stocked with fish. Goldfish and native Australian fish are recommended. Keep the side of ponds clear from waterweeds so that the fish can get at the larvae.
- Stock dams on your property with native fish and keep the sides clear of water plants. The Department of Primary Industries can recommend which species of fish to use.
- Keep swimming pools chlorinated or salted. If your pool is to be neglected for a period of time, for any reason, you could stock the pool with native fish.
- Empty children's wading pools after use and clean thoroughly with a cloth to remove mosquito eggs.
- Cap brick walls made of cavity bricks to prevent water pooling in the walls.
- Drill holes in tyres used for swings and garden surrounds to allow water to drain from them.
- Empty birdbaths and pets drinking water at least once a week and clean containers thoroughly to remove eggs.
- Keep all open drains and channels free from obstructions, especially weeds, grass, and other debris.
- Use a high-pressure spray from a garden hose to kill mosquito larvae which breed in plants, such as bromeliads, that hold pools of water.
- Boats, canoes and dinghies should be overturned or have the drain plug removed so that they do not hold water after rain.