

COMMON BACKYARD MOSQUITO SOURCES

Backyards are the #1 source for mosquito production. Anything that can hold water for more than five to seven days has the ability to produce mosquitoes. Maintain, manage or eliminate all types of standing water on a regular basis. Keep in mind that mosquitoes need as little as a 1/2 inch of water to complete their life cycle, therefore some areas may not be as obvious as others.

Use this checklist to help minimize mosquito production around your home.

- Trash bins:** Keep lids shut tight and remove any water that may have accumulated inside.
- Boats:** Cover with a tight fitting tarp.
- Fountains and bird baths:** Clean or hose out weekly.
- Rain gutters:** Keep clear of leaves and other debris.
- Potted plant saucers:** Don't over water. Flush out saucers with a hose or drill holes in the bottom to allow for better drainage.
- Tires:** Drill holes in tire swings. Recycle used tires or store in a covered area.
- Water bowls for pets:** Rinse and fill with fresh water 1 to 2 times a week.
- Water troughs:** Stock with mosquitofish.
- Leaky hoses:** Replace damaged hoses and fix leaky faucets and pipes.
- Low areas:** Do not over water lawns or gardens.
- Ponds:** Stock ornamental ponds with mosquitofish. Keep ponds free and clear of excess vegetation.
- Pools and spas:** Maintain even when not in use. Remove standing water from the top of pool and spa covers. If you know of a neglected pool or spa please contact the District.
- Containers:** Store containers upside down, cover or place in a sheltered area.
- Rain Barrels:** Cover tightly with a fine mesh screen.
- Chain link fence:** Cover hollow chain link fence posts with metal or plastic caps.
- Drains:** Make sure that drains are flowing freely.
- Flat roofs:** Water may puddle on flat roofs during the rainy season. Inspect weekly and remove any standing water.
- Lighting:** Check garden lights and eliminate water from tops of fixtures and from inside floodlights.
- Sculptures:** Check for water that may collect in lawn ornaments. Drain or flush out weekly.
- Screens:** Install and maintain tight-fitting window and door screens.
- Rot holes in trees:** Be aware that water can collect in rot holes, crotches and dead tree stumps. Check with an arborist for best way to manage water or fill cavities.
- Water under home:** Use a sump pump to remove water.
- Septic tanks:** Screen vent pipes with a fine mesh screen. Cover exposed tanks or manhole lids with plastic or a similar material and secure in place. Place several inches, or more, of dirt or sand over the top of the area.



For more information contact:
Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District
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or visit us online at **www.msamosquito.com**

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