



You may be raising mosquitoes!

The public can help reduce mosquito populations around their homes by eliminating standing water. Start with a thorough inspection of where you live to determine sources of standing water.

Here are some places to check:

1. **Water-holding containers of any kind:** Get rid of old tires, tin cans, bottles, jars, buckets, drums, etc., or keep them empty. Small boats, wheelbarrows, etc. should be stored upside down.
2. **Wading pools/swimming pools:** Children's wading pools should be emptied weekly and stored indoors or upside down when not in use. Infrequently used swimming pools should be emptied or tightly covered. Backwash from pools should be properly disposed of and not allowed to puddle on the ground. When the pool is drained, do so properly so that no run-off is allowed to accumulate.
3. **Pet dishes, birdbaths:** Empty watering pans of pets and other animals daily; change water in birdbaths twice weekly. Animal pens/paddocks should be kept clean and maintained free from any standing water.
4. **Cut flowers and plant cuttings:** Change water in vases holding flowers or cuttings twice each week (both inside and outside the house), or grow cuttings in sand.
5. **Roofs and gutters:** Check eave-troughs and rain gutters to see if any are stopped up or sagging. Flat roofs should also be checked for standing water and roof drains inspected to insure they are free of obstructions.
6. **Leaky faucets and hoses:** Repair all leaking exterior faucets, hose bibs, hose nozzles, and hose connections.
7. **Drainage basins:** Monitor "sump pump" pits, dry wells, or drainage basins to eliminate standing water where mosquitoes can breed.
8. **Septic systems:** Insure that septic systems are operating properly and are not overflowing. Failed septic systems must be repaired or connected to a community sewer system when and where available.

9. **Ornamental ponds:** Consider stocking ponds with fish. Certain fish will feed on mosquito larvae.
10. **Brooks and drains:** Be sure not to dump trash, leaves, grass or tree trimmings in brooks and drains to allow water to flow as freely as possible.
11. **Hollow tree stumps:** Fill hollow stumps with sand so that standing water cannot collect.

IF MOSQUITOES STILL BOTHER YOU

If you are sure that you have taken sufficient action to minimize mosquitoes around your home, but you are continually bothered by them, the source may be distant from your home. These problems should be reported to the **Ventura County Environmental Health Division** by calling (805) 654-2816.

MOSQUITO FISH

The Ventura County Environmental Health Division provides mosquito-eating fish free of charge. If you have a fishpond, water trough, or unused swimming pool, call (805) 662-6582 to request some mosquito-eating fish. These fish should be stocked in the spring or early summer. Goldfish usually won't eat mosquito larvae and pupae.