

# Mosquitoes

## The Mosquito Problem

Mosquitoes are blood-sucking insects that feed on humans and other animals. When a mosquito bites you, it injects a small amount of fluid under your skin, creating a small, itchy bump. This fluid can spread viruses, including West Nile Virus to humans. Mosquitoes can also spread heart worms to dogs. During the summer months, Adams County Health Department traps mosquitoes to monitor potential disease outbreaks associated with mosquitoes.



## Dawn/Dusk

- Mosquitoes are most active at dawn and dusk. Try to plan your outdoor activities during daylight hours or later in the evening.
- Steer clear of trees, bushes, and high grasses where mosquitoes may hide during the day.
- Keep grass cut short and bushes trimmed back to eliminate places for mosquitoes to hide.
- Avoid wearing perfume or scented products as they may attract mosquitoes.

## How Do I Keep Mosquitoes Away?

### Use Repellents

- Use insect repellent containing DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide), Picaridin, IR3535, 2-undecanone, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Read the directions on the label and follow the instructions carefully.
- Check with your child's doctor before applying repellent to an infant or child.
- Apply repellent sparingly and only on exposed skin.
- Keep repellents away from eyes, nostrils, and lips; do not inhale or ingest. Avoid applying repellents to areas on children's hands that are likely to have contact with eyes or mouth.
- Pregnant or nursing women should minimize use of repellents.
- Never use repellent on wounds or irritated skin.
- Reapply repellents as needed. Saturation does not increase effectiveness.
- Wash repellent-treated skin after going indoors.

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## Defend

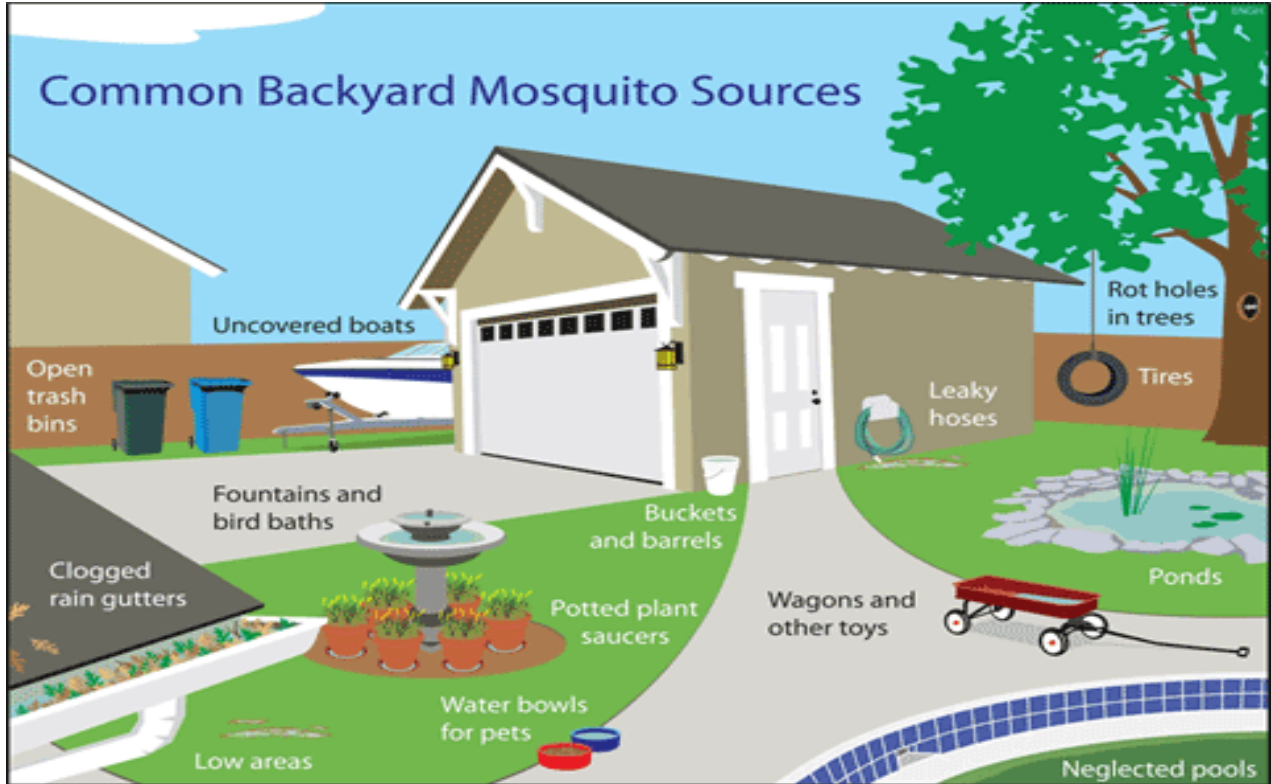
- Mosquito dunks are corn cobs containing Bti, a ground dwelling bacteria that occurs naturally and kills mosquito larvae.
- Mosquito dunks can be used to kill mosquito larvae in bodies of water that cannot be drained (e.g. ponds, large puddles, or low spots in fields).
- Attach door sweeps to the bottom of outside doors; consider using self-closing mechanisms.
- Repair any holes in screened doors or windows.
- Use mesh screens to cover ventilation panels in the kitchen and bathroom.

## Dress

- Wear light colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- When practical, wear long-sleeved shirts and pants when you are outside.

## Drain

- Drain any standing water found around your home weekly.
- Store wheelbarrows, buckets and empty flower pots upside-down.
- Empty out children's wading pools, bird baths, and pet's water dishes daily.
- Drill holes in swings (especially tire swings) to allow rain water to drain. Remove waste tires.
- Repair all leaking faucets and hoses.
- Check roofs and gutters to ensure they're in good condition and not collecting puddles.
- Make sure ditches and retention ponds are clean and drain properly.
- Stock ponds with fish, such as *Gambusia affinis*, that eat mosquito larvae.



For more information, visit [adamscountyhealthdepartment.org/vectorborne-disease](http://adamscountyhealthdepartment.org/vectorborne-disease) or if you have questions, please call your local Adams County Health Department office.