

Mosquito Control: What YOU Can Do!!

To avoid breeding mosquitoes:

Mosquitoes require standing water to complete their life cycle. To stop this cycle:

- ◆ Trash should be placed in a garbage can with a lid. Buckets, cans and other small containers are favored breeding grounds for many mosquito species; they should be emptied.
- ◆ Unused wading pools should be turned over or stored in a dry place.
- ◆ Plastic tarps should be checked weekly and any water dumped.
- ◆ Birdbaths should be cleaned and filled with fresh water at least once a week.
- ◆ Gutters should be cleaned regularly to keep them unclogged.
- ◆ Flowerpot drip trays should be drained.
- ◆ Swimming pools must be maintained at the proper chlorine level and pool covers that collect water should be drained, flushed regularly or treated with chlorine.
- ◆ For containerized areas prone to water collection, a floating, sustained-release larvicide can be used. This will kill the mosquito larvae before they can hatch into juvenile mosquitoes.

To avoid mosquito bites:

- ◆ Stay indoors during times of peak mosquito activity, generally at dawn and dusk.
- ◆ Wear loose fitting clothes with long sleeves and pants to cover exposed skin.
- ◆ Check and repair broken or loose window screens and doors to keep mosquitoes out of the home.
- ◆ Keep lawns and shrubs trimmed. Mosquitoes tend to rest during the day in tall grass and bushes.
- ◆ Use netting on baby strollers and tents to keep mosquitoes out.
- ◆ Consider using insect repellents on clothing and exposed skin. **Always read and follow the label directions carefully!** An adult should apply repellents to children following the label directions. **Never allow children to apply these products themselves. Wash treated skin and clothes after returning indoors.**

What works...what doesn't:

Bug zappers, insect light electrocuters and sound devices do not effectively reduce or repel mosquitoes and may instead kill **beneficial insects such as dragonflies and praying mantises, that DO prey on mosquitoes.** So when you see these insects, **DO NOT HARM THEM.** Instead, be grateful to them for the terrific job they are doing keeping the mosquito population down.

Mechanical devices such as the Mosquito Magnet have been shown to be effective. These can be purchased in Ocean Beach and (thanks to VOBEC) have been used in the OB commons for years.

VOBEC is working in cooperation with the Suffolk County Vector Control and under the environmental conservation laws, which are designed to protect and preserve our natural resources.

For further information, go to:

<http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/PublicWorks/VectorMosquitoControl.aspx>