



Mosquitoes and Disease

Mosquitoes can transmit a variety of viruses and parasites to people and animals including West Nile, Zika, St. Louis encephalitis, and western equine encephalomyelitis viruses, canine heart-worm, and malaria.

Mosquitoes can be annoying, but more important they are vectors (transmitters) of disease. Mosquito-borne diseases kill more than a million people every year making the mosquito the deadliest animal on earth.

Viruses that cause West Nile (WNV) and other encephalitides are normally found in birds, but also cause illness in people each year. Since introduced in 2003, thousands of people have been sickened by WNV in Los Angeles County alone. Thankfully, most people bitten by an infected mosquito will not have symptoms. Approximately 20% will develop West Nile fever. Symptoms may include headache, fever, body aches, vomiting, nausea, swollen lymph glands and skin rash on the chest, stomach and back. Rarely, this virus will invade the brain and/or nervous system leading to a more severe form of illness typified by mental confusion, coma, paralysis, and in extreme cases, death.

There is no cure for WNV, but by following simple mosquito-proofing and bite prevention tips found in this brochure, you can reduce your risk and protect your family from mosquito-transmitted disease.

Out for Blood

Both male and female mosquitoes feed on plant juices for food.

Only females bite to get blood from mammals, birds, amphibians, and reptiles using specialized mouth-parts (proboscis).

Proteins in blood are needed to produce eggs.

Recycle Water Responsibly

Capturing and storing water has become increasingly important as communities face the threat of water shortages caused by drought and waste. Mosquitoes will readily reproduce in water capture devices, increasing the risk of disease transmission to humans and animals in the area. We must consider all factors as we strive to maintain a sustainable and healthy environment.

Private property owners and home owner associations (HOAs) must maintain water storage/infiltration devices installed on their property. To ensure regular inspections, please report their location and any mosquito problems promptly to the District.

RAIN BARRELS

- Tightly screen all openings on rain barrels with 22 mesh screen to prohibit mosquito entry.
- Check regularly and replace torn or degraded screens.
- Remove water that pools on the lid at least once weekly
- Keep gutters and downspouts clean and free of debris

WATER TANKS (CISTERNS)

- Cisterns (above or below ground) must be tightly sealed to keep mosquitoes out.
- Cover all inlets and vents with tight-fitting 22 mesh screen. Inspect regularly to ensure there are no cracks and seals remain intact.
- The cistern must be accessible for periodic maintenance and inspection for mosquito breeding.



Are You Raising Mosquitoes?



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Stay Connected
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What You Need to Know About Mosquitoes in the San Gabriel Valley

Protecting the Public from Vector-Borne Disease since 1989

Fight the Bite! Don't Breed Mosquitoes

Residential yards are often the #1 source of mosquito production in a community. Anything that can hold any amount of water for more than five days can be a source of mosquitoes. This includes puddles in lawns and gardens, flower pot saucers, neglected swimming pools and spas, bird baths, clogged rain gutters, and more. Maintain, manage, or eliminate all types of standing water regularly.

A Bit about the Bite!

That itchy bump you get after a bite is a reaction to the saliva a mosquito injects when it feeds. Viruses and other pathogens can also be transmitted through mosquito saliva.

Find Sources!

Look for anything that can hold water for more than a few days. Buckets, dirty swimming pools, tires, trash cans, and other containers should be drained and/or cleaned weekly.

Avoid Them!

Try to limit outdoor activity at dusk and dawn during peak mosquito season (spring through fall).

Block 'em out!

Make sure windows and doors have tight fitting, intact screens. This will help keep other unwanted critters out too!

Use Mosquitofish!

These small, hardy fish can eat hundreds of mosquito larvae a day in a backyard pond or other man made source of water. Call us, we provide them at no charge to our residents.

Wear Repellents!

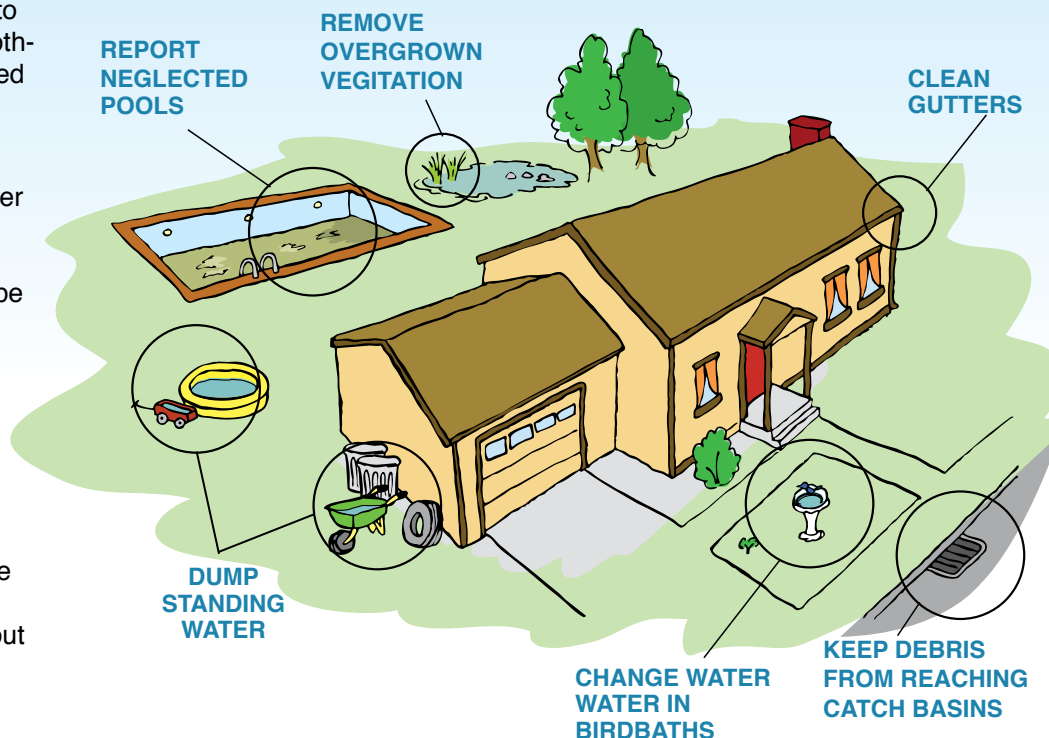
Wear long sleeves and pants and use repellents when outdoors. Remember to read the labels and carefully follow instructions on all insect repellents.

EPA Registered

When choosing a repellent, look for active ingredients registered with the EPA.

- DEET
- IR3535
- PARA-METHANE-DIOL
- PICARIDIN
- OIL OF LEMON EUCALYPTUS

Common Backyard Sources



Shared Responsibility

The effort to control mosquitoes and reduce the risk from the diseases they spread is the responsibility of the entire community.

Regular property inspections to prevent standing water, responsible rain water collection and usage, and watching for potential neighborhood sources will help keep mosquito populations to a minimum.

Wearing mosquito repellent and protective clothing, and keeping screens in good condition on windows and doors will help keep you and you family safe from bites.

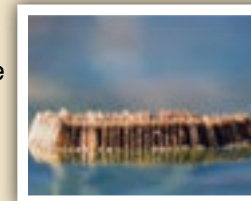
NOTICE: Failure to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes or other vectors of disease is a direct violation of the California Health & Safety Code §2000-2067.

Life Cycle of the Mosquito

The entire life cycle from egg to adult takes an average of five to seven (5-7) days for most species.

EGG

Adult female mosquitoes lay approximately 100-250 eggs either in clusters called rafts which float on the surface of the water, or singularly on or at the water's edge. Larvae hatch from eggs within days after contact with water.



LARVA

Larvae are often found at the surface of the water where they breathe and feed. They live in a wide variety of water-filled sources including neglected swimming pools, ditches, storm drains, household containers, tree holes, ponds, horse troughs, and discarded tires. Larvae feed on algae and bacteria in the water and shed their skin four times as they grow over several days or weeks.



PUPA

As pupae, mosquitoes transform in their cocoon-like shell. Pupae do not feed but must come to the water's surface to obtain oxygen. Once fully developed, the pupal skin splits and the adult mosquito emerges.



ADULT

Newly emerged adult mosquitoes rest on the surface of the water until they are strong enough to fly. After mating, female mosquitoes fly off in search of a blood meal necessary for developing eggs.

Female mosquitoes are attracted to heat, odors, and carbon dioxide given off by hosts such as humans, mammals, reptiles, and birds. Adult mosquitoes live an average of 1-3 weeks.

