

Potential Mosquito Sources in Your Home

The best method to reduce breeding on your property is to limit the number of potential sources. Inspect around and inside your home for potential breeding sources. If standing water is found, remove the source. If the source is not removed, you must check weekly for standing water to prevent mosquito breeding. Remember to look for mosquito sources every week and after rain events.

Languages listed on the original: Español, 中文, 한국어.

Checklist: each item below names a common source, followed by what to do about it.

Common household items

Any container capable of holding at least a teaspoon of water Throw away, turn over, empty once a week or drill holes in the bottom.

Buckets, watering cans, drinking glasses, cups, bottle caps, or trash that can hold water Store inside or turn over. If trash, throw away.

Old tires Dispose of at your local recycling facility. If used for playground equipment, drill holes for water to run. If on ground, ensure holes are not blocked by debris.

Tarps, plastic covers, flexible sandbox covers Drain water trapped in folds and arrange so water runs off.

Pet water bowls Scrub and rinse out once a week.

Potted plant saucers Empty saucers or flush out with garden hose once a week. Remove saucers from under plants. Place fine aquarium gravel in saucers.

Garbage cans, barrels, recycling bins Keep cans covered with lid or drill holes in bottom.

Rain barrels Cover rain barrel with insect screen and tightly secure. Install small pieces of screen over any other holes such as overflow valves or connection points, and secure. Try to use collected water first and empty barrels completely between rain events.

Building and structures

Dripping outdoor faucets and window air conditioners If puddling, repair faucet. Place rocks under window air conditioner to ensure water runs off or fill hole with dirt.

Drainage ditch, culvert, or low areas clogged by grass or weed clippings Remove grass and weed clippings so water can flow and/or drain freely.

Gutters, including "covered" types Clean so water runs freely.

Hollow fence posts without caps Put caps on open chain link or plastic fence posts.

Old playground equipment Remove and dispose of. If it must be stored, put under cover. Be sure water drains off.

Sump pumps Cover with screening.

Under decks and porches: stored items, depressions in dirt or plastic ground linings Fill in depressions. Remove or turn over any stored items that hold water.

Backyard and garden

Base of patio umbrella and portable basketball stand Fill with sand or, if filled with water, be sure to screw on plug. Keep water out of depressions in stand.

Bird baths Dump out once a week or flush out with garden hose.

Bromeliads (plants that hold water) Turn plant over to dump water. For plants too large, flush out cavities with garden hose once a week. Discard or remove from landscaping if possible.

Ornamental ponds and fountains Filter water or apply larvicide to prevent breeding.

Outdoor grills Keep covered. Ensure the vent is closed.

Plastic in gardens to prevent weeds Use landscape cloth that will allow water to pass through instead of plastic sheets that hold water.

Wheelbarrow stored outside Store upside down when not in use.

Children's toys

Portable basketball hoops Ensure caps for fill holes are in place; replace if lost.

Kiddie pools Empty or change water in kiddie pools every 5-7 days. Store indoors or turn over when not in use.

Sand boxes Drill small drainage holes on the bottom of the sand box.

Toys, wagons, etc. Keep toys turned over or inside when not in use. If water can get inside the plastic toy, so can a mosquito: drill drainage holes in the bottom.

Deflated toys Drain off water, dry out, and store indoors when not in use.

Recreation

Boats, canoes Pump out bilges. Turn over canoes and small boats. If not possible to turn over, dump out after each rain.

Jet skis Rinse out the foot depressions with a hose.

Pool pumps and drains Check weekly to ensure water is draining from area.

Pools, spas, unmaintained swimming pools Turn over kiddie pools when not in use. Contact the District when swimming pools and spas are in non-operational condition. If draining, wet/dry vacuum to remove water.

Old playground equipment Remove and dispose of. If it must be stored, put under cover. Be sure water drains off.

Sump pumps Cover with screening.

Under decks and porches: stored items, depressions in dirt or plastic ground linings Fill in depressions. Remove or turn over any stored items that hold water.

Inside the home

Flower vase with floral arrangements Replace water every few days. Scrub interior of vase to eliminate mosquito eggs.

Holiday items such as tree stands Replace water at least once a week and scrub thoroughly before storage.

Pet water bowls Rinse out once a week.

Toilet bowl brush holder Drain water in the container frequently.

Under kitchen sink Keep space beneath sink clear and free of damp.

Potted plants with saucers Empty saucers once a week. Remove saucers from under plants.

Small, decorative fountains or water features Maintain in operational condition or drain entirely.

Standing water in disconnected pipes exposed during home renovations Temporarily seal disconnected pipes until plumbing system is in working order.

Stagnant toilet water Flush water in extra toilet frequently.

More information: www.GLAMosquito.org · @GLAMosquito