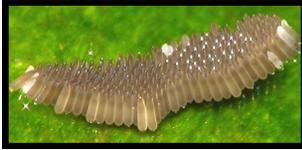


MOSQUITO LIFE CYCLE

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

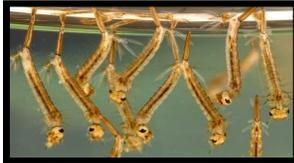
EGG

Adult female mosquitoes lay 100-250 eggs either in clusters called rafts which float on the surface of the water, or singly 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. They live in stagnant water sources including neglected swimming pools, household containers, tree holes, and tires. Larvae feed on algae and bacteria in the water and shed their skin four times as they grow over several days.



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.



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 humans, mammals, reptiles, and birds. Adult mosquitoes live an average of 1-3 weeks.



MOSQUITO MYTHS

"Citronella candles will protect against mosquitoes."

TRUTH: Citronella is often found to be a weak repellent.



"Over-the-counter repellents protect against mosquitoes."

TRUTH: There are specific ingredients you need for an effective mosquito repellent.

"Dryer sheets help protect against mosquito bites."

TRUTH: The scent of dryer sheets might repel some insects, but not mosquitoes.

"Insect-repelling plants work."

TRUTH: These plants actually create more space for mosquitoes to rest.



"What you eat affects you being bit."

TRUTH: Mosquitoes are drawn to certain biochemical factors, not to the types of foods you eat.

"Mosquitoes will only bite you at night."

TRUTH: The time of day a mosquito bites depends on its species.

"Bug zappers are useful for controlling mosquitoes."

TRUTH: Bug zappers catch other insects, not mosquitoes.



STOP RAISING MOSQUITOES IN YOUR HOME & YARD



Elkhart County Health Department



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REDUCE MOSQUITO BREEDING IN YOUR HOME

DON'T LET WATER GET STAGNANT

Mosquitoes need stagnant water to lay their eggs for the young to successfully hatch and mature. During mosquito season, it's especially important to keep gutters clear, thoroughly empty kiddie pools and water buckets after use and keep birdbaths filled with fresh water.



DUMP IT OUT

When the rain has moved on or the sprinklers have stopped, go outside and take a look around your home. If you have tarps on cars or outdoor equipment, make sure they don't droop, allowing water to pool. Make it a point to regularly check outdoor pet bowls and the surface of flowerpots and pot saucers for signs of mosquito larvae.

PAY ATTENTION TO WATER FEATURES

If you live near a small or decorative pond, drainage canals or other areas likely to hold standing water, try spreading environmentally friendly products around such as BTI (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), which can act as a larvicide, killing mosquitoes before they reach adulthood.



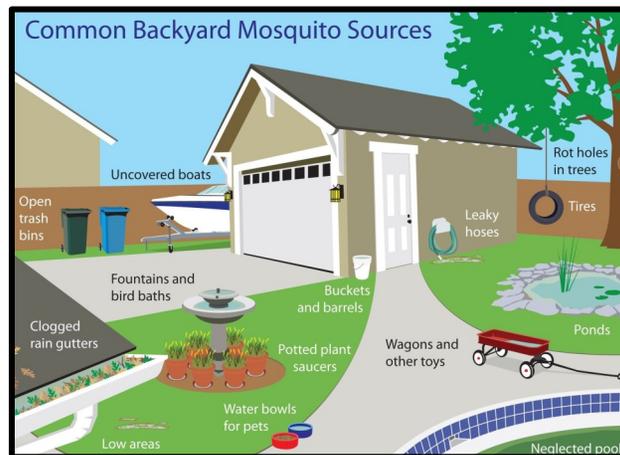
DRAIN OR THROW OUT TIRES

Remove old car tires from your property, and drill holes in the bottom of tire swings to allow for drainage. Once water ends up in an old tire, it's hard to pour out.



DECLUTTER AND GET RID OF JUNK

Take this opportunity to beautify the outside of your home while evicting mosquitoes at the same time. Schedule a weekly "litter patrol." Throw away bottles, cups, cans and other litter. Haul away old barbecue grills, car parts, shelves and other stuff that you've been meaning to clear out. Just about anywhere water can collect, mosquitoes can lay eggs.



KEEP SWIMMING POOLS CLEAN

Keep swimming pools cleaned and chlorinated, even when not in use. Homeowners who go on vacation without chlorinating their pools may return to a mosquito hatchery.

TIPS TO PREVENT MOSQUITO BITES

REMOVE MOSQUITO HABITAT

- Eliminate standing water in rain gutters, buckets, toys, or any other container where mosquitoes can breed.
- Empty and change the water in bird baths, fountains, wading pools, and pet bowls at least once a week to destroy potential mosquito habitats.
- Keep swimming pool water treated and circulating.

USE APPROPRIATE PESTICIDES

- Control mosquito larvae using products that contain Bti.
 - *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) is a naturally occurring bacterium found in soil. It only affects mosquito larvae and is nontoxic to humans, pets, fish and wildlife.
 - "Mosquito Dunks" and "Mosquito Bits" containing Bti can be purchased at many hardware/garden stores for homeowner use.



USE STRUCTURAL BARRIERS

- Cover all gaps in walls, doors, and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.
- Make sure window and door screens are in working order.

AVOID GETTING BITTEN

- Keep mosquitoes away from exposed skin by wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks.
- Use EPA-registered mosquito repellents containing DEET, oil of lemon-eucalyptus, or picaridin.

