



MOSQUITO HABITAT CHECKLIST

Container mosquitoes are the #1 mosquito problem in Monmouth County!

WATER +7 DAYS = MOSQUITOES

Use this checklist to help you find and eliminate all the places that mosquitoes breed around your home. Any container that holds water can be a home for mosquito larvae. After 7 days, larvae will emerge as adult mosquitoes. Remember to stay vigilant and to keep containers free of standing water all year long.

COMMON HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Buckets	Problem: Buckets are the most common mosquito habitats found at homes. Solution: Empty buckets and turn them over.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Garbage cans and recycling bins	Problem: Garbage cans, recycling bins, and recycled containers can hold water. Solution: Drill drainage holes in the bottoms of garbage cans and bins, keep covered and dispose of recycling weekly.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tarps, plastic bags and sheets	Problem: When tarps are not fitted tightly, multiple pockets form and collect water. Solution: Keep tarps tight and refit them if water collects.

BUILDING STRUCTURES

<input type="checkbox"/>	Gutters	Problem: Gutters hold water when clogged with leaves or improperly pitched. Plus the leaf debris provides food for the larvae Solution: Keep gutters clean and properly pitched.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flexible downspout extensions	Problem: Improper pitch and ridges cause these pipes to hold water. Solution: Pitch downspout extensions so water drains completely after it rains or replace with a non-flexible extension that is pitched to drain fully. Keep the inside free of debris.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Leaky hose spigots	Problem: Water can accumulate below the faucet. Solution: Fix leak or call a professional plumber.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Decks & Porches	Make sure to check under decks and porches for containers that may hold water.

AROUND THE GARDEN

<input type="checkbox"/>	Planter saucers	Problem: If a plant saucer holds water for 5-7 days it will support mosquito larvae. Solution: Dump the water out every 3-5 days or don't use a saucer at all.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Planters without drainage holes	Problem: Planters fill with water after heavy rains. Solution: Drill holes in the bottom of your planter – it's healthier for your plants.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Self-watering planters	Problem: The hole used to water the plant is also used by the female mosquito to access the water and lay eggs. Solution: Tightly seal the watering hole after adding water. If this is not possible, treat the reservoir water with a Bti* product. The most effective method for preventing mosquitoes is to not use these planters.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheelbarrows	Problem: Water collects in the main tub or small crevices inherent in their construction. Solution: Turn wheelbarrows over or store them on end. If crevices present, check weekly and move to empty any water you find.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Watering Cans	Problem: Watering cans holding water for many days will attract egg laying mosquitoes. Solution: Empty and store upside down or in a garage or shed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rain Barrels	Problem: Rain barrels conserve water but can also be a perfect home for mosquito larvae. Solution: Cover tops of rain barrels with tightly fitted screen. (Use nylon window screen and secure with a bungee cord or other tight elastic.) Mosquitoes will use the overflow hole to get in and lay their eggs; either plug hole or treat with a Bti* product.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bird Baths	Problem: Unless water is changed regularly, mosquito larvae flourish. Solution: Change water at least once a week.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ornamental ponds	Problem: Ornamental ponds without fish provide a great home for mosquitoes. Solution: Get fish. If that is not an option, you can use Bti* to treat for mosquito larvae.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Behind the shed & under the shrubs	Problem: Discarded and unattended items in hard to reach spaces can collect water. Solution: Look under bushes and in overlooked spots in the yard and remove debris that can hold water.

CHILDREN'S TOYS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Portable basketball hoops	Problem: The fill holes in the base of a portable basketball hoop allow mosquitoes to reach the water and lay eggs. Solution: Make sure caps for fill holes are in place; replace if lost.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kiddie pools	Problem: Kiddie pools can become mosquito habitat if the water is not changed often. Solution: Empty or change water in kiddie pools every 5 - 7 days. Be sure to store indoors or turned over when not in use.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sand boxes	Problem: Water accumulates in some plastic sand boxes whether covered or not. Solution: Drill small drainage holes in the bottom of your sand box.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Big plastic toys, wagons, etc.	Problem: Wagons, dump trucks, cars, kitchen sets, and playhouses all fill with rain water when left outside and, if left unchecked, will breed mosquitoes. Solution: 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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deflated toys	Problem: Like a tarp, a deflated toy (kiddie pool, bounce house, etc.) will create multiple small pockets that fill with water and provide habitat for larvae. Solution: Drain off water, dry out, and store indoors when not in use.

RECREATION

<input type="checkbox"/>	Boats	Problem: There are many compartments on boats that can collect water. Even when a boat itself doesn't hold water there can be containers left on a boat that do. Solution: Empty all the water possible. If there is water that can't be emptied, you can treat it with a Bti* product. Cover boats in storage with taut tarps or use boat shrink wrap.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jet skis	Problem: The foot depressions tend to hold water and provide a mosquito breeding ground. Solution: Rinse out the foot depressions with a hose every week. Jet skis can be tightly tarped or stored indoors.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pools/pool covers	Problem: Pool covers and pool skimmer compartments filled with water breed mosquitoes. Solution: Treat the pool or pool cover with Bti* in the spring before you open it. If you know of an abandoned home in your neighborhood with an unkempt pool, call the Monmouth County Mosquito Control Division. It may need to be treated or stocked with fish that eat mosquito larvae.

*** A note about Bti - Ideally, keep containers dry or discard if unneeded. If you do need to treat for mosquito larvae in a container, use the low impact pesticide Bti (Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis). It is available at many hardware stores, pond supply stores and online. Bti effectively targets mosquito larvae. It can be purchased as a granule, briquette, or liquid. Be sure to choose a product that is registered with the US EPA, labeled to use for mosquito larva. Closely follow the directions on the label. You may only use these products on your property; if you see a source of standing water elsewhere, call the Mosquito Control Division.**



The Monmouth County Mosquito Control Division provides mosquito control and tick-testing services to the residents of Monmouth County. The primary strategy for mosquito control relies on an Integrated Pest Management approach that focuses on controlling mosquito larvae versus broad control of adult mosquitoes. Much of the effort is on source control-- reducing or eliminating the standing water where mosquito larvae live. This checklist can help you do your part to control mosquitoes in your landscape.



The staff at the Monmouth County Mosquito Control Division can answer your questions and concerns about mosquitoes. Contact the staff by phone or by email at mosquitoes@co.monmouth.nj.us.