

MOSQUITO HOME CHECK LIST AND TIPS

Although the mosquitoes you are experiencing may not have originated from your garden, it is possible that upon entering the environment around your home, they decide to lay their eggs around your home in stagnant fish ponds, pot plants or on vegetation. There are some essential measures that residents can take to reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes. The following is designed to be a checklist that a person could use to reduce the likelihood of mosquitoes breeding around the home;

Hints around the house!

- Check your property for potential breeding sources such as; stagnant fish pond, pot plants that hold water, unkept swimming pools, inside the stems of some plants (which can hold water), containers left around the garden such as wheel barrows, tyres, etc.
- Remove any container that could hold water from your garden or turn them over so they can't hold water.
- Areas that have particularly thick foliage and shade may attract higher numbers of mosquitoes. The mosquitoes don't breed in the vegetation however do take shelter there. These types of areas that are close to breeding sites will inevitably attract higher numbers of adult mosquitoes, and so keep grass cut short and shrubbery trimmed so adult mosquitoes don't hide in the shaded areas during the day.
- Ensure fly screens to doors and windows are fitted and well maintained.
- If you have a bird bath, replace the water in it daily.
- Turn over canoes and small boats or cover them with a tarp. If covering with a tarp, make sure the tarp doesn't sag down and collect water on top of the tarp.
- Empty wading pools weekly or store inside when not in use.
- Keep drains and gutters clean so water will drain properly. Check your gutters for low points that may hold water.
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish. Water gardens may become major mosquito producers if allowed to stagnate.
- Use yellow light bulbs for outdoor lighting purposes during times of high mosquito numbers.

Suggested tips if going outside!

- Cover up by wearing light coloured long sleeve shirts and long pants that are loose fitting.
- Apply personal insect repellent containing DEET or Picaridin if possible
- There are a variety of products that can assist in reducing mosquito numbers around your property that can be applied to vegetation and surfaces for information about these products please contact your local pest control company or hardware store.

Which repellents are the best?

Personal repellents that contain DEET (diethyl toluamide) or picaridin have shown to be most effective against mosquitoes. These come in sprays, lotion and gels. Lotions have been recognised as the most effective. There are also a variety of natural based repellents that may suit those that prefer not to use products containing DEET or picaridin.