

Mosquito - Little Fly



The word “mosquito” is Spanish for “little fly,” and its use dates back to about 1583 in North America (Europeans referred to mosquitoes as “gnats”).

Prevention - Reducing the Risk of Mosquito Bites

- article by Santa Barbara County Health Department

Personal Protection Precautions

- Avoid damp, vegetated, mosquito-infested areas at dawn and dusk. This is when most mosquitoes feed.
- Ensure your windows have screens that do not have holes. Do not allow the mosquitoes in.
- Do not allow water to stagnate in old tires, flowerpots, trash, swimming pools, birdbaths, pet bowls, pails, buckets, etc. Empty all of the water out and turn the item upside down, if possible. If water is necessary to be kept outside for pets, empty the container and change the water frequently, at least once per week. Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, this will keep mosquitoes from breeding there; drain water from pool covers also.
- Call the ****Davis County Mosquito Abatement District** to alert them of potential mosquito breeding sites in your area, such as storm sewers, ditches, and abandoned properties with standing water. <http://www.davismosquito.org/services.htm>
- Stock garden ponds with goldfish or mosquito fish. They eat the mosquito eggs and larvae. Mosquito fish may be available from the ****Davis County Mosquito Abatement District**. <http://www.davismosquito.org/fishrequest.htm>
- Empty and wash birdbaths, wading pools and other water containers weekly.
- Whenever possible, wear protective clothing such as long sleeves, long pants, and socks while outdoors.
- Spray clothing with repellents containing DEET or permethrin, because mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing.
- Apply insect repellent to exposed skin when you go outdoors. The most effective repellents contain DEET. The more DEET a repellent contains, the longer time it gives protection from mosquito bites. DEET concentrations higher than 50% do not increase the length of protection.
- Use insect repellent products with no more than 35 % DEET for adults, and less than 10% for children. These are safe and effective for repelling mosquitoes.
- Use care in applying repellent to children: don't put repellent on their hands, and be careful to avoid their mouths and eyes. Products containing 10% or less DEET are the most appropriate for children aged 2 - 12 years.
- Go to [Fight the Bite](#) website for more information.



More Resources

<http://www.sbcphd.org/advisory/wnv/prevention.html>

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/prevention_info.htm



What attracts the mosquito? The mosquito uses three sensors to find its prey:

- Chemical sensors: Mosquitoes sense carbon dioxide and lactic acid up to 100 feet



away. Unfortunately, we give off these gases as part of our normal breathing. Certain chemicals in sweat also seem to attract mosquitoes (people who don't sweat much don't get nearly as many mosquito bites).

- Visual sensors: Clothing that contrasts with the background enables the mosquito to "zero in" on you.
- Heat sensors: Mosquitoes detect heat, so they can find warm-blooded mammals very easily.



The best thing you can do to control mosquitoes is to use a mosquito repellent with DEET and eliminate any standing water around your home. A mosquito can lay up to 250 eggs at one time in still water, and they can hatch as fast as every 7 days. Check your rain gutters frequently for collected water (especially if they sag and aren't level), along with birdbaths, buckets or boggy areas of the garden.

Burning citronella candles, using an electronic bug zapper, or spraying surfaces near entertainment areas with a mosquito barrier spray like **Mosquito Beater by BONIDE** will also help kill, or at least repel, mosquitoes. We also highly recommend using Mosquito Dunks if you have areas of standing water that you can't drain. A little vegetable oil on the surface of standing water can also help prevent mosquitos from completing their life cycle.



Diligence is your best protection. Stay indoors at dawn and dusk hours, wear pants and long-sleeved shirts, if possible, avoid any standing water, and repair broken screens.



Although it can be a constant battle, by incorporating the use of insect repellents and breeding prevention (eliminating standing water), mosquitoes and the diseases they carry can be reduced, making the outdoors more accessible and enjoyable for everyone.

More Resources

- <http://www.davimosquito.org/>
- <http://www.mosquito.org/mosquito-information/index.aspx>
- <http://www.mosquito.org/mosquito-information/repellents.aspx>
- <http://www.mosquitoes.org/LifeCycle.html>

Mosquitoes need still water to reproduce, eliminating stagnant water sources will greatly reduce mosquito infestations!

Adults live Above the Water Level

Eggs and Larvae live Under the Water Surface

