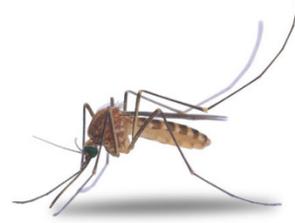


## ***Some Tips to Control Mosquitoes and Make Your Outdoor Time More Enjoyable***



### **Mosquito Control Tips**

Mosquitoes are small, but persistent. However, a combination of maintenance and protection can keep them under control.

- **Eliminate standing water.** Water is a mosquito breeding ground, and certain species like the Asian tiger mosquito breed in very small amounts of it.
  - Do not allow water to accumulate and sit in flower pots or pet dishes for more than two days at a time.
  - Clean out your bird baths at least once a week.
  - Introduce mosquito-eating fish to your decorative pond or pool.
- **Eliminate harborage:** Cut down weeds that run adjacent to your home's foundation and mow your lawn often.
- **Clean your gutters!** This is an essential and often overlooked source when it comes to keeping mosquitoes as far away from your house as possible – mosquitoes breed in standing water.
- **Attract Animals that Eat Mosquitoes**
  - Other animals can help decrease the mosquito population around your home. Certain birds, bats, dragon flies, and some species of fish eat either mosquitoes or their larvae.
  - Bird houses are excellent additions to your yard to attract birds that feast on mosquitoes. Purple Martins and Robins are famous for their appetite for flying insects including mosquitoes.
  - Fish and dragonflies also enjoy eating the wiggling larvae of mosquitoes.
- **Pest-Proof Plants.** There are many plants which act as natural mosquito repellent.
  - Catnip
  - Rosemary
  - Marigolds
  - Citronella

Planting a few of these in natural landscapes can not only beautify your home but also create a barrier against mosquitoes.

### **Personal Mosquito Control Outdoors**

Some tips to make your time outdoors more enjoyable.

- **Incorporate a large fan into your front or backyard when spending time outside.** Ceiling-mounted fans help keep mosquitoes away from the inside of your gazebo or outdoor porch. Mosquitoes are weak fliers and this will keep them from ruining your outdoor fun.

- **Try to wear light or loose fitting clothing.** Mosquitoes see dark colors more easily than light.
- **Citronella Candles.** Mosquitoes do not like citronella or smoke so citronella candles are the best of both worlds when it comes to keeping them at bay. Placing these on the perimeter of your deck or patio is a good way to create a deterrent.
- **Properly use insect repellents.** The Centers for Disease Prevention & Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics provide recommendations for the safe and effective use of repellents. For more information, visit the links below:

[CDC Guide to Insect Repellent Use and Safety](#)

[Insect Repellent Information from HealthyChildren.org](#)