

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Steps you can take around your home to help prevent the breeding of mosquitoes

- West Nile Virus (WNV) is a disease spread by infected mosquitoes. The best defense against WNV is eliminating sources of standing water in your yard where mosquitoes may lay eggs. Fill, cover, or remove any items that can trap water.
- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots, or similar water-holding containers that have collected on your property.
- Pay special attention to discarded tires. Most mosquitoes breed in tires with stagnant water.
 - The PA DEP Bureau of Land Recycling and Waste Management handle waste tires.
 - For more information on waste tires or to report waste tire piles, call 1-800-346-1932 or 717-787-7381
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers left outdoors.
- Clean clogged roof gutters every year, particularly if leaves from surrounding trees have a tendency to plug up the drains. Roof gutters can produce millions of mosquitoes each season.
- Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use. Stagnant water in a wading pool becomes a place for mosquitoes to breed.
- Turn over wheelbarrows and don't let water stagnate in birdbaths.
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish. Water gardens can become major mosquito producers if they are allowed to stagnate.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools not in use. A swimming pool left untended by a family on vacation for a month can produce enough mosquitoes to result in neighborhood-wide complaints. Mosquitoes can also breed in the water that collects on pool covers.

If WNV is found in your area, here are some ways you can protect yourself

- Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt when outdoors for long periods of time, or when mosquitoes are most active.
- Consider the use of mosquito repellent when it is necessary to be outdoors (use according to directions). Wash all treated skin and clothing when returning indoors.

For more information, please contact any of the above three offices.

