

# 29 Ways to Prevent Standing Water Mosquito Breeding Sites Around Your Home



Potential Breeding Site	How to Correct
Any container capable of holding at least a teaspoon of water 1/4 inch deep	Throw away, turn over, empty once a week or drill holes in the bottom.
Bird baths	Dump out once a week or flush out with garden hose.
Pet water bowls	Rinse out once a week.
Potted plants with saucers	Empty saucers or flush out with garden hose once a week.
Buckets, watering cans, drinking glasses, styrofoam cups, bottle caps, other trash that can hold water	Store inside or turn over. If trash, throwaway.
Tarps or other plastic covers, flexible sandbox covers	Drain water trapped in folds and arrange so that water runs off.
Gutters, including "covered" types	Clean so water runs freely.
Garbage cans, other barrels Upturned garbage can lids	Keep cans covered or drill holes in bottom. Keep lid on can or turned so water runs off. If collecting rain water, cover with screen.
Old tires	Dispose of at your local recycling facility. If used for playground equipment, drill holes for water to run. If on ground, be sure holes are not blocked by mulch.
Old playground equipment	Remove and dispose of. If it must be stored, put under cover. Be sure water drains off.
Children's toys, especially plastic toys, "Kiddie Coops," etc.	Store inside or turn so that places that can hold water are turned down. Some toys have compartments that hold water on both sides.
Wading pools, unused or abandoned swimming pools	Turn over kiddie pools when not in use. Larvicide <b>unused</b> swimming pools with mosquito dunks once a month. (Mosquitoes can't breed in maintained swimming pools because of the chemicals used.)

Potential Breeding Site	How to Correct
Wheelbarrow stored outside	Turn over when not in use.
Flat roofs	Inspect for water pools.
Dripping outdoor faucets and window air conditioners	If puddling, repair faucet. Place rocks under window air conditioner to ensure water runs off or fill hole with dirt.
Ornamental ponds <i>without</i> fish	Stock with fish, apply larvicide or filter/aerate water. (Fish eat mosquito larvae.)
Boats, canoes	Pump out bilges. Turn over canoes and small boats. If not possible to turn over, dump out after each rain.
Under decks, porches or outbuildings: stored items, depressions in dirt or plastic ground linings	Fill in depressions. Remove or turn over any stored items that hold water.
Pipes, plumbing supplies with elbows(comer joints)	Store under cover. If they must be outside, arrange so openings point down, not up.
Drainage ditch, culvert or other low areas clogged by grass and weed clippings	Remove grass and weed clippings so water can flow and/or drain freely.
Flexible plastic pipe to take water away from downspout	Replace with smooth pipe. The grooves can hold enough water to breed mosquitoes. Or fasten screen or old nylon stocking to end with duct tape.
Base of patio umbrella or portable basketball stand	Fill with sand or, if filled with water, be sure to screw on plug. Keep water out of depressions on stand also.
Outdoor grills	Keep covered. Be sure vent is closed also.
Bromeliads (plants that hold water) holes in trees or cavities formed by multiple tree trunks	Turn plant over to dump water. For trees or plants too large to turn over, flush out cavities with garden hose once a week.
Holes in trees or cavities	Turn over, flush out cavities with garden hose once a week.
Outside drains	Cover with screening or larvicide with "mosquito dunks/pellets."
Sump pumps	Cover with screening.
Bamboo	Cut down and regularly mow remaining "stumps" so they can't hold water.
Hollow fence posts without caps	Put caps on open chain link or plastic fence posts.
Plastic in gardens to prevent weeds	Use landscape cloth that will allow water to pass through instead of plastic sheets that hold water.



8600 Irvington Avenue • Bethesda, MD 20817  
 301-214-2400  
 Email: [office@rachelcarsoncouncil.org](mailto:office@rachelcarsoncouncil.org)  
[www.rachelcarsoncouncil.org](http://www.rachelcarsoncouncil.org)

Check list from Montgomery County, MD's "Use This List to Check for Mosquitoes' Artificial Breeding Sites"