

MOSQUITO BACKYARD CHECKLIST

Backyards are the number one source for mosquito production. Anything that can hold water can produce mosquitoes. Maintain, manage, or eliminate all types of standing water on a regular basis. Keep in mind that mosquitoes need as little as a ½ inch of water to complete their life cycle, so some areas may not be as obvious as others. **Check around your home for:**

- Any container capable of holding at least a teaspoon of water:** Throw away, turn over, empty once a week, or drill holes in the bottom.
- Buckets, watering cans, cups, bottle caps, or trash that can hold water:** Store inside or turn over. If trash, throw away.
- Fountains and bird baths:** Clean out weekly.
- Rain gutters:** Keep clear of leaves and other debris.
- Potted plant saucers:** Don't over water. Flush out saucers with a hose or drill holes in the bottom to allow for better drainage.
- Bromeliads (plants that hold water):** Turn plant over to dump out water. For large plants, flush out cavities with a garden hose once a week. Discard or remove from landscaping if possible.
- Plant cuttings:** Do not keep root plant cuttings in buckets of water.
- Ponds and other water features:** Stock water features with mosquitofish. Keep ponds free and clear of excess vegetation.
- Water gardens:** Stock with mosquitofish. If unable to use mosquitofish, scoop out mosquito larvae with a net on a weekly basis.
- Food crop containers:** Dump out and refill with fresh water once a week.
- Water bowls for pets:** Scrub and rinse out once a week.
- Water troughs:** Stock with mosquitofish.
- Garbage cans, barrels, and recycling bins:** Keep cans covered with lids or drill holes in the bottom. If collecting rainwater, cover with a fine mesh screen.
- Tires:** Drill holes in tire swings. Recycle used tires or store in a covered area.
- Low areas:** Do not over water lawns or gardens.
- Pools and spas:** Maintain even when not in use. Remove standing water from the top of pool and spa covers. If you know of a neglected pool or spa, please contact the District.
- Rain barrels:** Cover tightly with a fine mesh screen.
- Chain link fence:** Cover hollow chain link fence posts with metal or plastic caps.
- Drainage ditch, culvert, or low areas clogged by grass or weeds:** Remove grass and weed clippings so water can flow and/or drain freely.
- Flat roofs:** Water may puddle on flat roofs during the rainy season. Inspect weekly and remove any standing water.
- Sculptures:** Check for water that may collect in garden ornaments. Drain or flush out weekly.
- Rot holes in trees:** Be aware that water can collect in rot holes, crotches and dead tree stumps. Check with an arborist for the best way to manage water or fill cavities.
- Water under home:** Use a sump pump to remove water.
- Septic tanks:** Screen vent pipes with a fine mesh screen. Cover exposed tanks or manhole lids with plastic or a similar material and secure in place. Place several inches of dirt or sand over the top of the area.
- Tarps and plastic covers:** Drain water trapped in folds and arrange so water runs off.

REMEMBER TO LOOK FOR MOSQUITO SOURCES EVERY WEEK AND AFTER RAIN EVENTS.

If you are experiencing a mosquito problem, we can help! Submit a request for service at www.msosquito.org or call our office at **707-285-2200**. District programs and services are supported by property taxes and benefit assessments and are provided at no additional charge to all residents of Marin and Sonoma counties.



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