

Get Mosquitoes to BUZZ OFF!



Mosquitoes can sometimes spread disease, such as West Nile Virus or Zika Virus.

The West Nile Virus has been found in local mosquitoes, and Rockland County has cases of the virus in people spread from local mosquitoes. To date, the Zika virus has not been found in local mosquitoes, and our only cases of Zika to date are from people who have traveled to areas where the Zika Virus is spreading,

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in or near water, and their offspring "grow up" in water before emerging as adults that fly and bite. Many types of mosquitoes, including those that can spread disease, lay their eggs in the smallest amounts of stagnant (still) water around the home such as in birdbaths, bottle caps, unused flowerpots, toys, and discarded tires. Others lay their eggs in small ponds or other bodies of stagnant water. Most mosquitoes are active between dusk and dawn and will bite when the air is calm; some types of mosquitoes will bite at any time of the day.



Reduce Mosquitoes around Your Home and Yard



- Check your property for ANY items that can hold water. Get rid of the items or empty the water out and scrub the inside of the item at least once a week.
- Drill drain holes in the bottoms of recycling containers, turn over wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use, and remove all discarded tires.

- If you have a swimming pool or spa that is not in use, drain the water off the cover or treat this standing water with Mosquito Dunks® (small, donut-shaped objects that float on the water's surface and release bacteria that kill mosquitoes in their larval stage in water, before they become flying, biting adults). The dunks are available free of charge at the Health Department, Building D, 50 Sanatorium Road in Pomona, Monday - Friday from 9 am to 4 pm, while supplies last. In addition, residents can request free larvicide tablets by calling the New York State Department of Health at 1-888-364-4723.



- Tightly cover water storage containers (buckets, cisterns, rain barrels) so that mosquitoes cannot get inside to lay eggs. For containers without lids, use wire mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito.

- Use an outdoor flying insect spray where mosquitoes rest. Mosquitoes rest in dark, humid areas like under patio furniture, or under the carport or garage. When using insecticides, always follow label instructions.
- If you have a septic tank, repair cracks or gaps. Cover open vent or plumbing pipes. Use wire mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito.
- Make sure that roof gutters drain properly, clear vegetation and debris from the edges of ponds, and remove leaf debris from yards and gardens.



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Protect Yourself and Your Family from Mosquito Bites

Most mosquitoes are not infected with disease-causing viruses. However, to reduce your risk of being bitten, take the following steps:

- Cover-up as completely as possible. Wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt when outdoors for long periods or when mosquitoes are more active.
- Use mosquito repellent, which should always be applied according to label directions. Do not use repellent on babies younger than 2 months old. Do not use products containing oil of lemon eucalyptus or para-menthane-diol on children younger than 3 years old. Cover baby carriers with mosquito netting when outside.
- Stay indoors when mosquitoes are more active.
- Close doors and make sure all windows and doors have screens. Repair or replace screens that have rips, tears or holes.

To learn more, call the Health Department at 845-364-3173 or visit <http://bit.ly/2aXY0E4>. To learn more about the Zika virus call the New York State Zika Information Line at 1-888-364-4723 or visit <http://on.ny.gov/2mpEAjK>.

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www.rocklandgov.com/health

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