



Fight the Bite with Spring Cleaning!

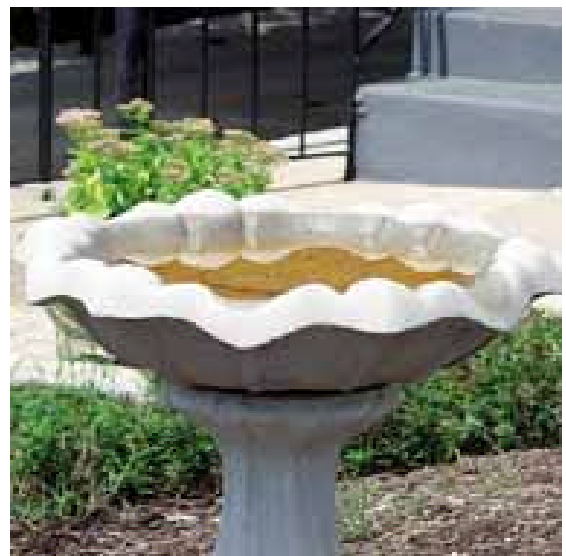
When temperatures begin to rise, so does the risk for West Nile Virus as the number of mosquitoes increase in the area. One way to safeguard against mosquitoes is to eliminate breeding areas around your home. Mosquitoes breed wherever they can find standing water to lay their eggs. This spring, protect yourself and your family by following the tips below for cleaning up against West Nile Virus.



- Clean out pet bowls daily
- Fix leaky faucets that cause water puddles
- Repair or install tight-fitting screens on windows and doors
- Cover or drain items that hold water like unused pools, trash cans, old tires, garden equipment, boats, and toys
- Clean the water in birdbaths and wading pools weekly



- Add Mosquito Fish to ornamental ponds and unused pools. For free Mosquito Fish please call (888) 551-INFO (4636).
- Clean clogged rain gutters
- Remove standing water from plant saucers, buckets, and other containers
- Trim the yard so that weeds, tall grass, and shrubs cannot harbor mosquitoes



Mosquito Prevention Checklist

If standing water is removed weekly, mosquitoes will not have a chance to breed. Timely prevention leads to less mosquitoes around the home and reduces or eliminates the need for pesticides.

The checklists below include property maintenance and personal safety tips against West Nile Virus.

✓ Check your home for breeding sources

- Birdbaths:** Clean weekly
- Chain link fence:** Cap uncapped fence pipes
- Containers:** Cover or turn upside down
- Decorative ponds:** Stock with Mosquito Fish that eat mosquito larvae
- Drains:** Keep outdoor drains flowing freely
- Dumpsters:** Keep covered and remove any water inside or underneath them
- Faucets and hoses:** Fix leaky faucets and hoses
- Flat roofs:** Inspect for puddles after it rains
- Irrigation:** Do not over water, and fill in low spots that create puddles
- Lawn ornaments:** Check for areas that hold water
- Machinery:** Cover and clean any areas that may hold water
- Playground:** Drill drainage holes in tire swings and play ground equipment that holds water
- Pools/spas:** Drain, cover, or stock mosquito fish in unused pools and spas
- Potted Plants:** Do not over water and empty saucers weekly, or fill saucers with sand
- Rain gutters:** Clean out debris so water flows freely
- Tires:** Dispose or drill holes for water drainage
- Tool sheds:** Eliminate water around foundation
- Trash cans:** Clean weekly and keep covered
- Unused pipes:** Store flat so no water collects
- Water troughs for animals:** Replace water weekly, or stock large troughs with Mosquito Fish
- Wheelbarrows:** Store upright so water does not collect

✓ Protect yourself from mosquitoes

- Dawn/Dusk:** Avoid going outdoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active
- Clothing:** Wear long sleeved shirts and long pants when around active mosquito areas
- DEET:** Apply insect repellent containing DEET to exposed skin when mosquitoes are active
- Screens:** Install or repair tight-fitting window and door screens to keep mosquitoes outside
- Shrubs:** Trim and thin shrubs and bushy plants where mosquitoes tend to hide
- Dead birds:** Report dead birds within 24 hours to (888) 551-INFO (4636)
- BTI:** BTI is a naturally occurring bacteria that kills mosquito and fly larvae. It can be put into standing water to prevent larvae development, and is non-toxic to animals when applied properly. Please follow product label instructions carefully. BTI is available at hardware and garden stores.

