

Mosquito Prevention and Protection

Always remember the 3 D's of protection from mosquitoes



Drain

Many mosquito problems in your neighborhood are likely to come from water-filled containers that you, the resident, can help to eliminate.

All mosquitoes require water in which to breed. Be sure to drain any standing water around your house.

- Dispose of any tires. Tires can breed thousands of mosquitoes.
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers.
- Clear roof gutters of debris.
- Clean pet water dishes regularly.
- Check and empty children's toys.
- Repair leaky outdoor faucets.
- Change the water in bird baths at least once a week.
- Canoes and other boats should be turned over.
- Avoid water collecting on pool covers.
- Empty water collected in tarps around the yard or on wood-piles.
- Address tree holes.
- Even the smallest of containers that can collect water can breed hundreds to thousands of mosquitoes. They don't need much water to lay their eggs. (bottles, barrels, buckets, overturned garbage can lids, etc.)



Dress

Wear light colored, loose fitting clothing. Studies have shown that some of the 174 mosquito species in the United States are more attracted to dark clothing and most can readily bite through tight-fitting clothing of loose weave. When practical, wear long sleeves and pants. Treat clothing and gear with permethrin



Defend

Choose a mosquito repellent that has been registered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with one of the active ingredients below. Registered products have been reviewed, approved, and pose minimal risk for human safety when used according to label directions. When used as directed, EPA-registered insect repellents are proven safe and effective, even for pregnant and breastfeeding women.

- DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide)
- Picaridin (KBR 3023)
- IR3535
- Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE)
- Para-menthane-diol (PMD)
- 2-undecanone

Some tips for babies and children:

- Always follow instructions when applying repellent to children.
- Do not use repellent on babies younger than 2 months old.
 - Instead, dress your child in clothing that covers arms and legs.
 - Cover strollers and baby carriers with mosquito netting.
- Do not use products containing oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or para-menthane-diol (PMD) on children under 3 years old.
- Do not apply insect repellent to a child's hands, eyes, mouth, cuts, or irritated skin.
 - Adults:** Spray insect repellent onto your hands and then apply to a child's face.

Some general rules to follow when using repellents:

- Always follow the product label instructions.
- Reapply repellents as directed.
- Do not spray repellent on the skin under clothing.
- If using sunscreen, apply sunscreen first and repellent second.



The Northumberland County Conservation District, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), provides technical assistance under the Mosquito-borne Disease Control Program. Our mission is to protect the public health of residents in Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union counties by collecting field data and eliminating vectors of the West Nile and Zika viruses.

For more information, visit our website at: www.nccdpa.org/programs/mosquito-borne-disease-control