Use this checklist to help you find and eliminate the places where mosquitoes breed around your home. Any container that holds water can be a home for mosquito larvae. After 7 days, larvae will become adult mosquitoes. Remember to stay aware and to keep containers free of standing water.

Mosquito-Proof Your Yard
Habitat Checklist

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Habitat Checklist

Buckets
Empty buckets and turn them over.

Gutters
Keep gutters clean and properly pitched.

Garbage cans and recycling bins
Drill drainage holes in the bottoms of garbage cans and recycling bins and keep them covered to prevent water from getting in.

Portable basketball hoops and playsets
Make sure caps for basketball hoop fill holes are in place; replace if lost. Dry off playsets to prevent standing water.

Decks and Porches
Make sure to check under decks and porches for containers that may hold water.

Leaky hose spigots
Fix leak or call a professional plumber.

Flexible downspout extensions
Pitch downspout extensions so water drains completely after it rains or replace with a non-flexible extension that is pitched to drain fully. Keep the inside free of debris.

Tarps, plastic bags and sheets
Keep tarps tight and refit them if water collects.

Kiddie pools
Empty or change the water every 5-7 days. Be sure to store indoors or turn over when not in use.

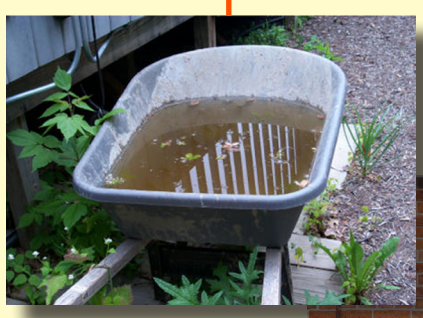
Big plastic toys, wagons, etc.
Keep toys turned over or inside when not in use. If water can get inside the toy or tire swing, drill drainage holes in the bottom.

Bird Baths
Change water at least once a week.

Deflated toys
Drain off water, dry out, and store indoors when not in use.

Sand boxes
Drill small drainage holes in the bottom of the sand box.

Watering Cans
Empty and store upside down or in a garage or shed.



Planters without drainage holes
Drill holes in the bottom of your planter.

Wheelbarrows
Turn wheelbarrows over or store them upright. Check them weekly and empty any water found.

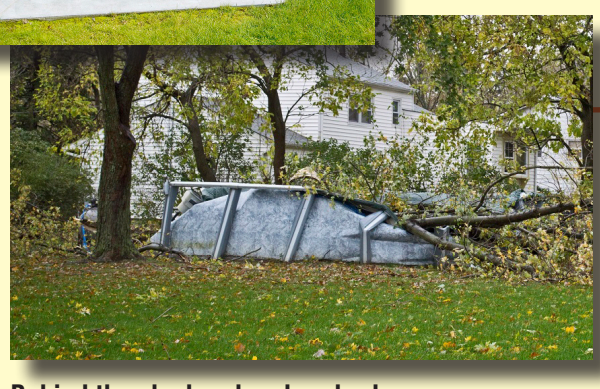
Pet dishes and planter saucers
Dump the water out or rinse the dish or saucer every 3-5 days.

Self-watering planters
Tightly seal the watering hole after adding water. The most effective method for preventing mosquitoes is to not use these planters.

Rain Barrels
Cover tops of rain barrels with tightly fitted screen. (Use nylon window screen and secure with a bungee cord or other tight elastic.) Mosquitoes will use the overflow hole to get in and lay their eggs; either plug hole or contact your local mosquito control agency for guidance.*

Boats
Empty all the water possible. Cover boats in storage with tight-fitting tarps or use boat shrink wrap.

Decorative Ponds
Add a fountain, waterfall or other device to prevent standing water, or contact your local mosquito control agency on how to treat for mosquito larvae.*



Behind the shed and under shrubs
Look under bushes and in overlooked spots in the yard and remove debris that can hold water.

Pools and pool covers
Keep pool covers tight. If you know of an abandoned home in your neighborhood with a neglected pool, contact your local mosquito control agency.*

Jet skis
Rinse out the foot depressions with a hose every week. Jet skis can be tightly tarped or stored indoors.

**For contact information on your local mosquito control agency, visit* http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/pcp/bpo-mfagencies.htm.

The Monmouth County Mosquito Control Division is acknowledged for information contained in this brochure.