



Mosquito Control in and Around your House

Operation Mosquito S.T.I.N.G. is a strategy County Executive Andy Spano put in place to address the West Nile encephalitis outbreak. It is designed to track and control mosquitoes at an early stage to prevent illness due to West Nile virus in residents of Westchester County.

Mosquitoes NEED stagnant or standing water to lay their eggs. To reduce the mosquito population around your home and property, reduce or eliminate all stagnant water.

Here's what you can do to control mosquitoes:

- Remove unnecessary water-holding containers, especially old tires, cans, buckets, drums, wheelbarrows and bottles.
- Cover trash containers to keep out rain.
- Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use.
- Ensure that your home has tight-fitting screens over windows and doors to keep mosquitoes from entering apartments and homes. Be sure that all screens are in good repair.
- Clean roof gutters and remove standing water from flat roofs.
- Place a couple of capfuls of household bleach in your basement sump-pump pit if it has standing water.
- Keep drains, culverts and streams on your property clean of weeds and trash so that the water will drain properly.
- Make sure stored boat covers are completely drained. Store small boats upside down.
- Drain the water in birdbaths, plant pots and drip trays twice a week.
- Keep grass cut short and trim shrubs to eliminate hiding places for adult mosquitoes.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas and hot tubs. Be sure rainwater does not collect on pool, sauna or hot tub covers. You should disinfect the cover with bleach to kill larvae and eggs.
- Clean vegetation and debris from the edges of ponds.
- Fill in hollow tree stumps and rot holes that hold water with sand or concrete.
- Drill holes in the bottoms of recycling containers that are kept outdoors.

For more information, call the West Nile Virus Information Line at (914) 813-5609
or Westchester County Department of Health at (914) 813-5000
or visit our website at Westchestergov.com/health

