

Help Control Mosquito Breeding Grounds and Stop the Spread of Disease



Mosquitoes are carriers of many diseases, including West Nile Virus (WNV), Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), and Zika virus. Mosquitoes that carry WNV and EEE are found in Rhode Island and bite until the first heavy frost (usually the end of October). Mosquitoes that carry Zika are not known to be in Rhode Island any time of year.

- Female mosquitoes lay several hundred eggs on the walls of water-filled containers. Eggs stick to containers like glue and remain attached until they are scrubbed off. When water covers the eggs, they hatch and become adults in about a week.
- The species of mosquito that carries WNV or EEE bite mostly at sunrise and sundown.
- If you are traveling to an area with Zika, the species of mosquito that carries Zika prefer to bite during the day, but can also bite at night.

Protect Yourself, Your Family, and Community from Mosquitoes

1

Eliminate standing water in and around your home:

- Once a week, empty and scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out items that hold water, such as tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, pool covers, birdbaths, flowerpots, or trash containers. Check inside and outside your home.
- 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.

2

If you have a septic tank, follow these steps:

- Repair cracks or gaps.
- Cover open vent or plumbing pipes. Use wire mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito.

3

Keep mosquitoes out of your home.

- Use screens on windows and doors.
- Repair holes in screens.
- Use air conditioning when available.



Put plants in soil, not in water.



Drain water from pools when not in use.



Recycle used tires or keep them protected from rain.



Drain and dump any standing water.



Scrub vases and containers weekly to remove mosquito eggs.

4

Prevent mosquito bites:

- Use an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellent with one of the following active ingredients:
 - DEET (20-30% strength);
 - Picardin;
 - IR3535; or
 - Oil of eucalyptus or para-menthan-diol (Do not use on children younger than 3 years old).

- Do not use insect repellent on babies younger than 2 months old. All EPA-registered insect repellents are evaluated to make sure they are safe and effective.
 - Always follow the product label instructions.
 - Reapply insect repellent every few hours, depending on which product and strength you choose.
 - Do not spray repellent on the skin under clothing. If you are also using sunscreen, apply sunscreen first and insect repellent second.

- Treat clothing and gear (such as boots, pants, socks, and tents) with permethrin or purchase permethrin-treated clothing and gear.
 - Treated clothing remains protective after multiple washings. See product information to find out how long the protection will last.
 - If treating items yourself, follow the product instructions carefully.
 - Do not use permethrin products, intended to treat clothing, directly on skin.

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.



Keep rain barrels covered tightly.



Empty standing water from fountains and bird baths weekly.



Keep septic tanks sealed.



Install or repair window and door screens.



www.health.ri.gov/disease/carriers/mosquitoes