

# West Nile virus



## REDUCING MOSQUITO NUMBERS AROUND YOUR HOME

Mosquitoes need water to breed. Mosquito eggs left in stagnant water, even small amounts allowed to stand for a week or more, can develop into adult mosquitoes capable of flight. Reducing or eliminating standing water is an effective and economical way to control mosquitoes and something all Manitobans can do around their homes:

- Eliminate sources of standing water in your yard (for example flowerpots, gardening cans, wheelbarrows, and puddles). Items that must remain in your yard, such as boats and gardening containers, should be stored upside down.
- Adjust tarps over grills, firewood piles, boats and other objects to avoid the collection of water.
- Drill holes in the bottom of water-collecting objects and containers that must be left outdoors, such as in tire swings to drain any water. Consider replacing the swing with another type that does not collect water.
- Cover any garbage, recycling or composting containers, to prevent water from collecting.
- Replace water in birdbaths and outdoor pet dishes once every week.
- Ensure that openings in rain barrels are covered with mosquito screening or tightly sealed around the downspout. If a rain barrel is not screened, add 1/2 cup of household bleach to it once a week to get rid of any mosquito eggs, or empty the rain barrel if the water is more than a week old.
- Keep swimming pools aerated, clean and chlorinated, even if they are not being used.
- Dump any water that collects on swimming pool covers.
- Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use. Change the water in wading pools at least once a week.
- Keep eavestroughs and gutters clear of debris to prevent standing water.
- Check under shrubbery and lawn coverings for hidden containers that may contain water.
- Use landscaping to eliminate water that collects in low areas of your property.
- Trim vegetation around your property. Weeds, tall grass and shrubbery provide an outdoor home for adult mosquitoes.
- Repair any leaks from outdoor water pipes, joints or hoses. Replace washers on outdoor taps that drip.
- Make sure household and cottage drainage systems are working properly and are not blocked.

For more information, see  
[www.gov.mb.ca](http://www.gov.mb.ca)

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