

West Nile virus

AND TIRES



What role do tires play in the West Nile virus risk?

- Rain water and snow melt collecting in tires provides mosquitoes with suitable places to lay eggs.
- Mosquito species often found in tires, like *Culex tarsalis* and *Culex restuans*, are linked to West Nile virus.
- Materials like soil, leaves and grass also collect in tires, and provide food for growing mosquitoes.
- Tires and other man-made containers will hold water long into the summer after natural habitats have dried up.

What can be done to reduce the risk of West Nile virus associated with tires?

- Reduce mosquito habitats by eliminating standing water in your yard.
- Prevent water from getting into tires by storing them indoors or by stacking them and covering them with a tarp or shrink wrap so water or mosquitoes cannot enter the stack.
- Empty out tires filled with water.
- Drill holes in tires to allow water drainage and prevent future water accumulation.
- To reduce resting sites for adult mosquitoes, keep vegetation around tires short.
- Move tires that have been in one place for a long time.
- Remove and recycle old used tires on your property.

Products that can help control mosquitoes.

- Some products can kill mosquito larvae in tires full of water, preventing the growth of adult mosquitoes. *Bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis* (*B.t.i.*, and also known as Aquabac™ or Vectobac™) and *Bacillus sphaericus* (also known as Vectolex™) are bacteria that will only kill mosquito larvae. They do not affect other insects, fish, birds, or mammals.
- Tires must be checked regularly for larvae and if found, reapplication may be necessary.
- It is important to note that *B.t.i.* and Vectolex are not for prevention and should only be used when larvae are found.