

# Mosquito-Proof Your Yard

WATER + 7 DAYS = MOSQUITOES

## Habitat Checklist



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Burlington County Health Department  
*Health Starts Here*

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

### COMMON HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buckets                         | Empty buckets and turn them over.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garbage cans and recycling bins | Drill drainage holes in the bottoms of garbage cans and bins, keep covered and dispose of recycling weekly. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tarps, plastic bags and sheets  | Keep tarps tight and refit them if water collects.  |

### BUILDING STRUCTURES

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gutters                       | Keep gutters clean and properly pitched.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leaky hose spigots            | Fix leak or call a professional plumber.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decks & Porches               | Make sure to check under decks and porches for containers that may hold water.  |

### AROUND THE GARDEN

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planter saucers                    | Dump the water out every 3-5 days or don't use a saucer at all.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planters without drainage holes    | Drill holes in the bottom of your planter – it's healthier for your plants.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self-watering planters             | Tightly seal the watering hole after adding water. If this is not possible, treat the reservoir water with a Bti* product. The most effective method for preventing mosquitoes is to not use these planters.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wheelbarrows                       | Turn wheelbarrows over or store them on end. If crevices present, check weekly and move to empty any water you find.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watering Cans                      | Empty and store upside down or in a garage or shed.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 treat with a Bti* product. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird Baths                         | Change water at least once a week.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ornamental ponds                   | Get fish. If that is not an option, you can use Bti* to treat for mosquito larvae.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Behind the shed & under the shrubs | Look under bushes and in overlooked spots in the yard and remove debris that can hold water.  |

## CHILDREN'S TOYS

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Portable basketball hoops</b>      | Make sure caps for fill holes are in place; replace if lost.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Kiddie pools</b>                   | Empty or change water in kiddie pools every 5 - 7 days. Be sure to store indoors or turned over when not in use.                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Sand boxes</b>                     | Drill small drainage holes in the bottom of your sand box.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Big plastic toys, wagons, etc.</b> | Keep toys turned over or inside when not in use. If water can get inside the plastic toy so can a mosquito - drill drainage holes in the bottom. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Deflated toys</b>                  | Drain off water, dry out, and store indoors when not in use.   |

## RECREATION

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Boats</b>             | Empty all the water possible. If there is water that can't be emptied, you can treat it with a Bti* product. Cover boats in storage with taut tarps or use boat shrink wrap.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Jet skis</b>          | Rinse out the foot depressions with a hose every week. Jet skis can be tightly tarped or stored indoors.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Pools/pool covers</b> | Treat the pool or pool cover with Bti* in the spring before you open it. If you know of an abandoned home in your neighborhood with an unkempt pool, call the <b>Burlington County Health Department</b> . It may need to be treated or stocked with fish that eat mosquito larvae. |

*\* A note about Bti - Ideally, keep containers dry or discard if unneeded. If you do need to treat for mosquito larvae in a container, use the low impact pesticide Bti (Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis). It is available at many hardware stores, pond supply stores and online. Bti effectively targets mosquito larvae. It can be purchased as a granule, briquette, or liquid. Be sure to choose a product that is registered with the US EPA, labeled to use for mosquito larva. Closely follow the directions on the label. You may only use these products on your property; if you see a source of standing water elsewhere, call the **Burlington County Division of Mosquito Control**.*

## Contact Information

*Burlington County Health Department* – Reporting stagnant/abandoned pools

[www.co.burlington.nj.us/health](http://www.co.burlington.nj.us/health)

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*Burlington County Division of Mosquito Control* – Reporting stagnant water and other mosquito issues

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