

## April Showers Bring.... M..M..Mosquitoes?

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Yes, it hardly seems possible that we should be talking mosquitoes already. But with the flooding rains of this past month, it's not too early to think about ways to mosquito-proof your own back-yard. Now is the time to take a good hard look at your yard and see if there are areas on your property that may be the perfect breeding ground for the pesky and disease-carrying mosquito.

Mosquito breeding around the home can be reduced significantly by reducing the amount of standing water available for mosquito breeding. Make sure you:

- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or similar water-holding containers that have accumulated on your property. Do not overlook containers that have become overgrown by aquatic vegetation.

- Pay special attention to discarded tires that may have accumulated on your property. The used tire has become the most important domestic mosquito producer in this country.

- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left out of doors. Drainage holes that are located on the sides collect enough water for mosquitoes to breed in.

- Clean clogged roof gutters on an annual basis, particularly if the leaves from surrounding trees have a tendency to plug up the drains. Roof gutters are easily overlooked but can produce millions of mosquitoes each season.

- Fix any holes in screens and make sure they are tightly attached to all doors and windows. Inspect weather stripping around all doors.

- Turn over wheelbarrows and do not allow water to stagnate in birdbaths. Both provide breeding habitat for domestic mosquitoes.

- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish. Water gardens are fashionable but become major mosquito producers if they are allowed to stagnate.

- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools that are not being used. A swimming pool left unattended by a family that goes on vacation for a month can produce enough mosquitoes to result in neighborhood-wide complaints. Be aware that mosquitoes may even breed in the water that collects on swimming pool covers.

- Use landscaping to eliminate standing water that collects on your property.

Mosquitoes may develop in any puddle that lasts for more than 4 days.