

## YOU CAN CONTROL THE MOSQUITO POPULATION!



Mosquitoes are an all too familiar summer nuisance. They are not only annoying, but they present a potential health risk as transmitters of diseases such as encephalitis and the West Nile virus. Mosquitoes require standing water for their young to hatch and develop. Once eggs are laid, a new crop of mosquitoes can hatch, grow and emerge from the water as adults in as little as one week. Eliminating potential breeding sites around your home can go a long way to reduce the mosquito population. Many mosquitoes stay very close to their juvenile habitat when they emerge as adults, and the females look for hosts to bite nearby. Eliminating mosquito habitats around your home can prevent bites, reduce your risk of disease and make your summer evenings more enjoyable.

Here are a few simple suggestions that can make a big difference in controlling the mosquito population in your own back yard:

- Empty, remove, cover or turn over any container that has the potential to hold water.
- Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets.
- Make sure gutters and downspouts are free of blockage and are properly draining.
- Change the water in wading pools weekly and store indoors when not in use.
- Properly dispose of old tires.
- Empty planters that hold water twice each week.
- Empty bird baths twice weekly.
- Empty your pets watering dishes daily.
- Use sand to plug holes in trees where water can collect.
- Drain or fill low areas on your property that hold water for more than three days.
- Remind or help neighbors to eliminate breeding sites on their property.

If you have questions, want to report a complaint or need additional information about mosquitoes, call the Franklin County Board of Health's Mosquito Bite Line at (614) 462-BITE (2483) and leave a message; your call will be returned. You can also visit [www.franklincountyohio.gov/health](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/health) to ask a question or submit a complaint.

*The Franklin County Board of Health is providing this information for educational use during the 2010 Mosquito Season. Please feel free to use this information throughout your community in newsletters, or on your website.*

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