Habitat Checklist
Mosquito-Proof Your Yard

Use this checklist to help you find and eliminate the places where mosquitoes breed around your home. Any container that holds water can be a home for mosquito larvae. After 7 days, larvae will become the home for mosquito larvae. Use this checklist to help you find and eliminate the places where water stands; and to keep containers free of adult mosquitoes. Remember to stay aware and keep containers free of standing water.

WATER + 7 DAYS = MOSQUITOES!
Mosquito-Proof Your Yard

Habitat Checklist

**Buckets**
Empty buckets and turn them over.

**Gutters**
Keep gutters clean and properly pitched.

**Portable basketball hoops and playsets**
Make sure caps for basketball hoop fill holes are in place; replace if lost. Dry off playsets to prevent standing water.

**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.

**Sand boxes**
Drill small drainage holes in the bottom of the sand box.

**Deflated toys**
Drain off water, dry out, and store indoors when not in use.

**Leaky hose spigots**
Fix leak or call a professional plumber.

**Big plastic toys, wagons, etc.**
Keep toys turned over or inside when not in use. If water can get inside the toy or tire swing, drill drainage holes in the bottom.

**Pet dishes and planter saucers**
Dump the water out or rinse the dish or saucer every 3-5 days.

**Planters without drainage holes**
Drill holes in the bottom of your planter.

**Wheelbarrows**
Turn wheelbarrows over or store them upright. Check them weekly and empty any water found.

**Kiddie pools**
Empty or change the water every 5-7 days. Be sure to store indoors or turn over when not in use.

**Big plastic toys, wagons, etc.**
Keep toys turned over or inside when not in use. If water can get inside the toy or tire swing, drill drainage holes in the bottom.

**Self-watering planters**
Tightly seal the watering hole after adding water. The most effective method for preventing mosquitoes is to not use these planters.

**Decorative Ponds**
Add a fountain, waterfall or other device to prevent standing water, or contact your local mosquito control agency on how to treat for mosquito larvae.

**Behind the shed and under shrubs**
Look under bushes and in overlooked spots in the yard and remove debris that can hold water.

**Trash cans and recycling bins**
Drill drainage holes in the bottoms of garbage cans and recycling bins and keep them covered to prevent water from getting in.

**Decks and Porches**
Make sure to check under decks and porches for containers that may hold water.

**Tarps, plastic bags and sheets**
Keep tarps tight and refit them if water collects.

**Watering Cans**
Empty and store upside down or in a garage or shed.

**Bird Baths**
Change water at least once a week.

**Pools and pool covers**
Keep pool covers tight. If you know of an abandoned home in your neighborhood with a neglected pool, contact your local mosquito control agency.

**Behind the shed and under shrubs**
Look under bushes and in overlooked spots in the yard and remove debris that can hold water.

**Boats**
Empty all the water possible. Cover boats in storage with tight-fitting tarps or use boat shrink wrap.

**Jet skis**
Rinse out the foot depressions with a hose every week. Jet skis can be tightly tarped or stored indoors.

*For contact information on your local mosquito control agency, visit http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/post/bpo-mfagencies.htm*

The Monmouth County Mosquito Control Division is acknowledged for information contained in this brochure.