



The Township of Ewing Board of Health

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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 adult mosquitoes. Remember to stay aware and to keep containers free of standing water.

- **Garbage 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.
- **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.
- **Decks and Porches** Make sure to check under decks and porches for containers that may hold water.
- **Kiddie pools** Empty or change the water every 5-7 days. 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.
- **Tarps, plastic bags and sheets** Keep tarps tight and refit them if water collects.
- **Leaky hose spigots** Fix leak or call a professional plumber.
- **Deflated toys** Drain off water, dry out, and store indoors when not in use.
- **Bird Baths** Change water at least once a week.
- **Watering Cans** Empty and store upside down or in a garage or shed.
- **Planters without drainage holes** Drill holes in the bottom of your planter.
- **Sand boxes** Drill small drainage holes in the bottom of the sand box.
- **Pet dishes and planter saucers** Dump the water out or rinse the dish or saucer every 3-5 days.
- **Self-watering planters** Tightly seal the watering hole after adding water. The most effective method for preventing mosquitoes is to not use these planters.
- **Wheelbarrows** Turn wheelbarrows over or store them upright. Check them weekly and empty any water found.
- **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 contact your local mosquito control agency for guidance.*
- **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.
- **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.



*For contact information on your local mosquito control agency, visit <https://nj.gov/dep/enforcement/pcp/bpo-mfagencies.htm>