

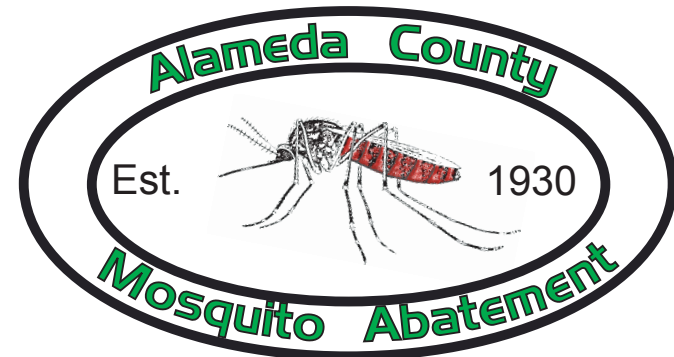
Checklist for mosquito breeding

- Fishpond** Keep your pond healthy, and get free mosquitofish from the District.
- Swimming pool and spas** Keep well maintained, or call us for advice on a neglected pool.
- Containers** Empty them, turn them over or get rid of them! These include buckets, barrels, boats, pots, saucers, etc.
- Bird baths** Change water at least once a week.
- Under house or in basement** Drain the water and correct leaky plumbing. This is a major source of mosquitoes in urban areas during the summer.
- Catchbasins and storm drains** Call us for advice on these sources.
- Sumps** Construct so that water does not stand.
- Standing water** Eliminate by draining or filling.
- Discarded tires** Dispose of them or cover to keep water out.
- Treeholes** Contact us or a licensed tree service for advice.

Remember that any standing water can breed mosquitoes!

Mosquito Abatement, West Nile Virus and You

Answers to some questions and suggestions for the homeowner



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What is West Nile Virus?

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne disease that has been found in parts of Asia, Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East. The virus was first detected in the United States in 1999 in New York City and has since spread through most of the country. Most people and animals who become infected with the virus have only a mild illness or no symptoms, but in rare cases can become seriously ill. The types of mosquitoes that can transmit WNV are common mosquitoes in Alameda County. Our goal is to decrease the numbers of mosquitoes in the county thereby minimizing the possibility of WNV transmission.

What we are doing...

The Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District is very concerned about West Nile Virus. We are taking numerous steps to prepare for its appearance in the county. Some of these are:

- hiring seasonal help to increase our larval
- surveillance program (checking water more frequently for immature mosquitoes)
- increasing the trapping of adult mosquitoes for disease testing and population evaluation
- providing increased training for all our employees
- maintaining 3 sentinel chicken flocks (which act as
- "early warning systems" for the presence of WNV)
- participating in a state-wide dead bird surveillance
- program (call 1. 877. WNV BIRD if you find one)
- coordinating our response plan with other agencies

What you can do...

There are many things that homeowners and residents of the county can do to make their homes and properties less welcome to mosquitoes. Mosquitoes need water to complete their lifecycle, so if you can eliminate standing water on your property, we will be ahead of the game! The following are suggestions to prevent mosquitoes from breeding near your home and decreasing the chances of being bitten by them:

- stock your fishpond with free mosquitofish from us
- eliminate all standing water on your property, and ask your neighbors to do the same
- screen your windows and doors, and make sure they fit tightly
- minimize outside activity at dawn and dusk
- when outside for extended periods, wear long sleeve
- shirts and long pants and use insect repellent (follow label directions carefully)
- keep outside lighting to a minimum near entry doors (some mosquitoes are attracted to lights)

