

CITY CONNECTION

Effective Mosquito Control

One of the best ways to avoid mosquitoes is to know how to prevent them from breeding on your property. The elimination of larval breeding sites such as discarded tires, beverage cups, and unused children's wading pools will go a long way in discouraging breeding. Residents should clean and replenish pet water and bird baths every three days, clean roof gutters to allow proper drainage, prevent standing water in flower pots and ensure good property drainage. Water gardens or small fountains should be treated with larvicides or contain mosquito eating fish to prevent emerging adult mosquitoes. It is also important to maintain screen doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering homes. Remember, any container that will hold water for five to seven days is a potential breeding site.

Exposure can be limited when outdoors by wearing insect repellents which contain from 10-30% DEET and by wearing long sleeved shirts and long pants. Mosquitoes are attracted to people by skin odors and carbon dioxide from breath. DEET does not kill mosquitoes, but simply makes a person unattractive for feeding. The more DEET a repellent contains the longer it will protect from mosquito bites. Always read and follow label directions and take special care when applying repellents to children.

- Use enough repellent to cover exposed skin or clothing.
- Do not apply repellent to skin that is under clothing. If repellent is applied to clothing, wash treated clothing before wearing again.
- Do not apply repellent to cuts, wounds, or irritated skin.
- Do not spray aerosol or pump products in enclosed areas.
- Do not apply aerosol or pump products directly to your face. Spray your hands and then rub them carefully over the face, avoiding eyes and mouth.
- When using repellent on a child, apply it to your own hands and then rub them on your child. Avoid children's eyes and mouth and use sparingly around their ears.
- Do not apply repellent to children's hands since they tend to put their hands in their mouths.
- After returning indoors, wash treated skin with soap and water.

Mosquito control products available for consumer use are sold through local home and garden supply stores. For a list of products registered for control of mosquitoes in Oklahoma, visit the following website: www.ento.okstate.edu/mosquito/control.html. Pesticide label rates and recommendations must be followed according to the manufacturers instructions for all pesticides applied.

City Connection is brought to you by the City of Stillwater as a public service to provide regular information about City services and to respond to general questions asked by the public about their local government. Information for today's City Connection is taken from the webpage of the OSU Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology.