

MOSQUITO CONTROL 2018

Information about Mosquito Control in Athens-Clarke County



The Athens-Clarke County Unified Government's Mosquito Control Program provides tips and resources to help keep citizens

safe during upcoming months when many mosquitos are most active. Mosquitoes that have fed on infected animals or humans can transmit West Nile virus, LaCrosse encephalitis, Zika, or other diseases to humans, wildlife, and domestic animals. There are over 160 mosquito species in the United States and over 60 in Georgia.



All mosquitoes require standing water for part of their life cycle. Only female mosquitoes bite, requiring a blood meal to develop

their eggs. Once eggs in or near water have been wet for a period of time, larvae hatch and feed on particles in the water before transforming into pupae. After 1-3 days in the pupal stage, the adult mosquito emerges from the water. In ideal conditions, the growth from egg to adult can take less than one week.

There are two general ways to minimize mosquito bites:



1 Reduce mosquitoes in your area



*Eliminating breeding sites is extremely important in reducing the mosquito population. **Removing standing water is key. Almost anything that will hold water for as little as one week can produce mosquitoes. Remember: When in doubt, dump it out!***



2 Reduce mosquitoes' attraction to you and your family



Purchase larvacide briquets in home improvement or lawn and garden stores. **Use larvacide briquets only in standing water that cannot be eliminated or dumped or in rain barrels.** These briquets kill mosquito larvae before they become adults, but do not harm other animals or humans.



The Athens-Clarke County Unified Government only treats standing water that cannot be eliminated on public property. Some natural areas – such as Sandy Creek Nature Center or areas along the Greenway – control mosquitoes using biological methods such as fish or may not be treated in order to preserve natural balances.

General spraying to kill adult mosquitoes is only done as a last resort after an area is determined to have a special concern.

To report public areas that may need treatment, call the ACC Transportation & Public Works Department's Streets & Drainage Division at 706-613-3465.



Prevent and remove litter. Tires, cups, chip bags, cans, bottles, and other litter can provide areas for mosquitoes to grow. Don't create litter – always properly dispose of your trash and recycling and pick up any litter on and around your property. Want to help even more? Have a group take part in a one-time or recurring cleanup program through Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful (706-613-3512 ext. 309 / accgov.com/kaccb).



Property with trash, stagnant water, and dumping sites will produce mosquito breeding sites. **Report nuisance areas** to the ACC Code Enforcement Division at 706-613-3790.

For questions not answered on this flyer or on www.accgov.com/mosquito, contact the ACC Public Information Office at 706-613-3795.

MOSQUITO CONTROL TIPS



Eliminate standing water. When in doubt, dump it out. Check weekly and after it rains to find standing water areas.



Dispose of any trash that can hold water, especially tires. Almost anything that can hold water for a week – even a chip bag – can produce mosquitoes.



Purchase larvicide briquets at home improvement or lawn and garden stores. Use them in water that cannot be eliminated.



Check rain barrels. They may need larvicide briquets in them if proper insect screening / sealing is not used on openings.



Check tarps, covers, and gutters for pockets that collect water. Dump out any water and make changes to prevent more.



Change or dump out water in plant containers and birdbaths at least weekly. Plant containers can be a particular problem.



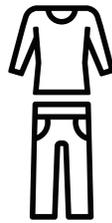
Remove or trim excess vegetation such as ivy to eliminate areas where adult mosquitoes like to rest.



Stay indoors at dawn, dusk, and early evening when mosquitoes are most active.



Sit by a fan to repel mosquitoes, as they don't like strong winds.



Long sleeves, pants, socks & shoes allow less exposed skin. Wear loose fitting, light colored clothing. Mosquitoes are typically attracted to dark colors.



Use insect repellent. Products containing DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus are recommended for use on skin and are registered with the Environmental Protection Agency. Products with 10-30% concentrations of DEET can be used on children over 2 months old. Higher percentages of DEET provide longer protection, although amounts over 30% do not provide much added protection. Use any repellent according to directions. Repellent can be used with sunscreen.



Ultrasonic devices and traps have *not* been shown to provide a noticeable mosquito reduction. Backyard foggers may be helpful if needed, but avoid misters that can be scheduled. You may still need repellent. Devices and foggers only kill adult mosquitoes, so continue removing standing water.



Keep pets indoors at dawn, dusk, and in the early evening. Don't apply repellent to animals. Treat dogs to prevent heartworm, a mosquito-borne disease.



Use proper light outside: incandescent lights attract mosquitoes, fluorescent lights neither attract nor repel them.