

REDUCE THE RISK PERSONAL PROTECTION IS YOUR BEST DEFENCE

Back Yard Prevention:

Mosquitoes need standing water to lay their eggs. The best way to keep mosquitoes away is to clean up any standing water sources.

- Eaves and drains: clean out gutters of debris
- Buckets, flower pots, plastic containers: drill holes in bottoms or store inside
- Tires: empty of water frequently; move to a shed or garage if possible
- Ornamental ponds: a pond aerator will keep water moving; stock with fish to control larvae.
- Rain barrels: cover tightly with mosquito-proof mesh
- Change water every 3-4 days in bird baths, pet bowls, plant saucers, children's wading pools (turn over when not in use)
- Clean and chlorinate outdoor pools and hot tubs
- Routinely check items that collect water such as buckets, pool covers, tarps, and wheelbarrows.
- Fill in low depressions in lawn and check flat roofs
- Rural properties: check for mosquito larvae in lagoons, dugouts and standing water sites
- Environmentally friendly larvicides for use in fish ponds, ditches and lagoons are available at most gardening and hardware stores.
- Modifications or treatments of ditches, swamps, streams, lakes and other water bodies that are not man-made and self-contained must be authorized by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Personal Protection:

- Avoid going outside at dawn and dusk – mosquitoes are most active at these times
- Wear light coloured, loose fitting clothes with long sleeves and pants when possible
- Check window screens for holes and make sure they fit snugly into window frames. If you don't have screens, keep windows and doors closed when mosquitoes are active
- Use mosquito nets around your home, especially when mosquito populations are high
- Apply DEET-based mosquito repellent (follow label precautions and do not use on children under six months of age). Note: do not use combination repellent/sunscreen
- Mosquito 'zappers' that attract bugs have not been proven effective.



WEST NILE VIRUS PREVENTION TIP SHEET

To find out more information or to report a dead crow, call the West Nile Info Line at:

(Victoria) 370-8120 / (Outside Victoria) 1-866-WNV-VIHA (1-866-968-8442)

Or visit the VIHA Web site at: www.viha.ca/mho