

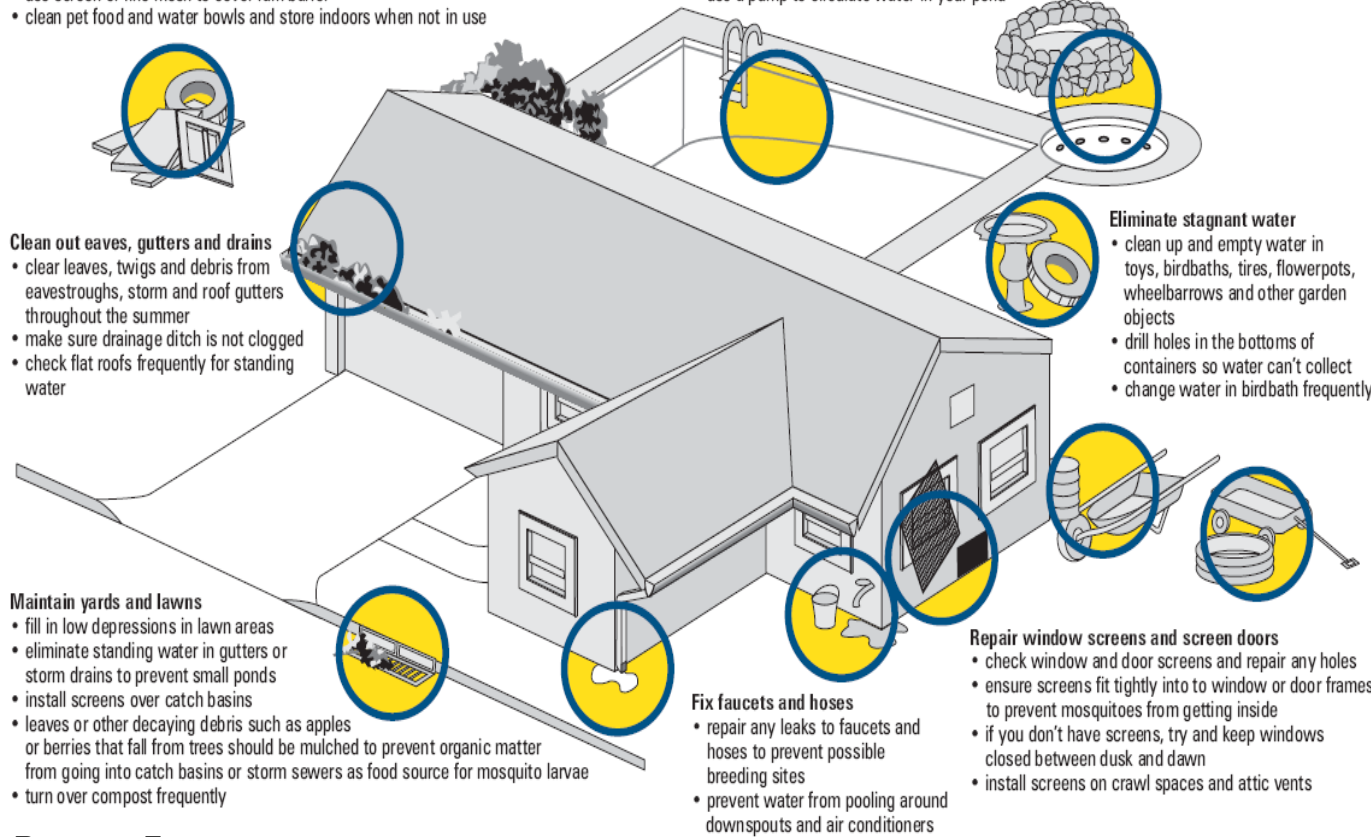
# Eliminate Mosquito Breeding Areas Around Your Home

## Keep your yard clean

- remove discarded tire and clean up junk piles that collect water
- cover containers or use lids to prevent water from collecting in the bottom of garbage cans
- use screen or fine mesh to cover rain barrel
- clean pet food and water bowls and store indoors when not in use

## Always inspect swimming or wading pools and ponds

- remove water that collects on pool covers
- make sure the pool's pump is circulating water
- turn over wading pools when not in use
- use a pump to circulate water in your pond



## Clean out eaves, gutters and drains

- clear leaves, twigs and debris from eavestroughs, storm and roof gutters throughout the summer
- make sure drainage ditch is not clogged
- check flat roofs frequently for standing water

## Eliminate stagnant water

- clean up and empty water in toys, birdbaths, tires, flowerpots, wheelbarrows and other garden objects
- drill holes in the bottoms of containers so water can't collect
- change water in birdbath frequently

## Maintain yards and lawns

- fill in low depressions in lawn areas
- eliminate standing water in gutters or storm drains to prevent small ponds
- install screens over catch basins
- leaves or other decaying debris such as apples or berries that fall from trees should be mulched to prevent organic matter from going into catch basins or storm sewers as food source for mosquito larvae
- turn over compost frequently

## Fix faucets and hoses

- repair any leaks to faucets and hoses to prevent possible breeding sites
- prevent water from pooling around downspouts and air conditioners

## Repair window screens and screen doors

- check window and door screens and repair any holes
- ensure screens fit tightly into to window or door frames to prevent mosquitoes from getting inside
- if you don't have screens, try and keep windows closed between dusk and dawn
- install screens on crawl spaces and attic vents

## Dengue Fever

After several decades of absence, dengue fever has recently been reported in Miami-Dade County. Dengue is a viral disease transmitted by mosquitoes, specifically the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the most common mosquito in our area which breeds in water holding containers around homes. Dengue fever starts with a sudden high fever, often 104° to 105° Fahrenheit, and sometimes a reddish skin rash appears. Other symptoms include: headache (particularly behind the eyes), muscle and joint pains, fatigue, nausea and vomiting. Miami-Dade County Mosquito Control asks for your help to prevent more cases of dengue fever. You can help by eliminating standing water from any containers and by protecting from mosquito bites.

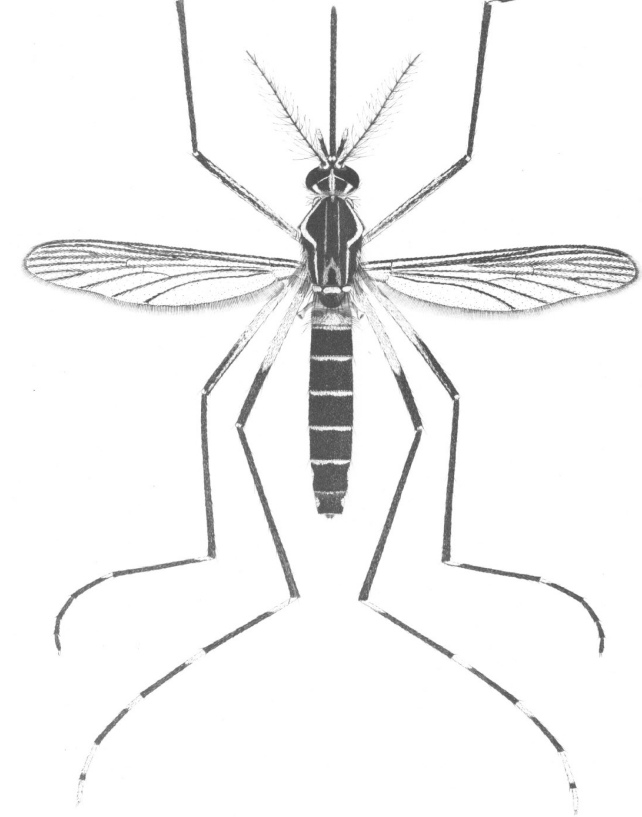
## Don't forget to drain and cover

**Drain** standing water from any container where sprinkler or rain water has collected.

**Cover** your bare skin and clothing with repellent if you must be outside when mosquitoes are most active during the hours of dusk and dawn. Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and long sleeves. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, and IR3535 are effective. Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months.

# Protect Yourself From Mosquito Bites and Dengue

## Eliminate Mosquito Breeding Areas Around Your Home



Actual size of *Aedes aegypti* mosquito →



MIAMI-DADE  
COUNTY

Mosquito Control

Call 3-1-1 to Report Mosquito Nuisance

# Mosquito Facts and Biology

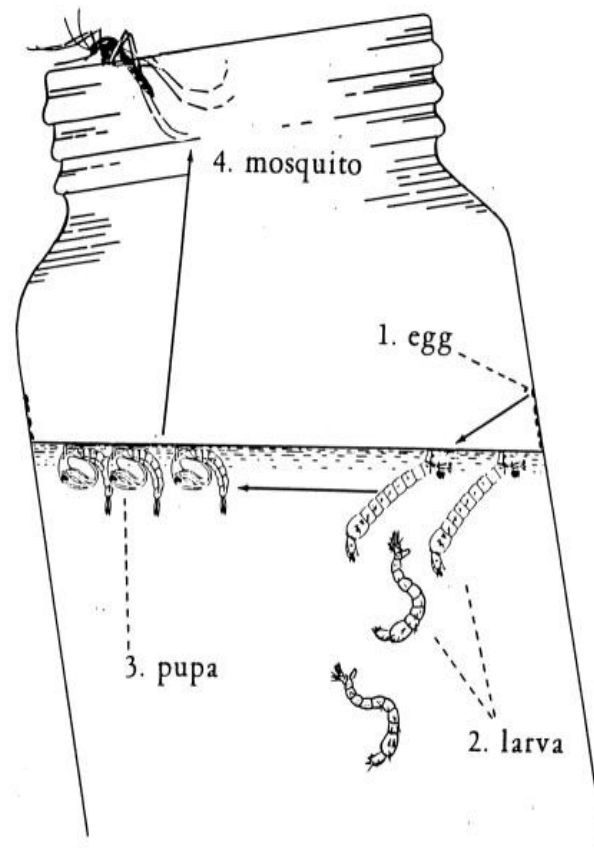
Mosquitoes are a problem to humans and domestic animals because they are annoying and may carry disease. Miami-Dade County has a sub-tropical environment and is home to approximately 45 species of mosquitoes.

Residents can reduce mosquito numbers in their neighborhood by removing breeding sources around their homes. Water holding containers such as bird baths, pet water dishes, plant saucers, children's pools, boats, and junk such as old tires, and discarded appliances are ideal breeding spots.

Mosquitoes must have water to develop. The eggs are laid on water, on the side of containers, or moist soil that may flood. Upon hatching, they go through several stages of development, and emerge as adult mosquitoes in about one week. Larvae hatch from the eggs and live, feed, and grow in the water. Fully grown larvae develop into pupae. During the pupal stage, feeding stops and after 2 or 3 days, the adult mosquito emerges from the pupa.

Female mosquitoes mate with male mosquitoes and fly off in search of a blood meal. Only female mosquitoes take a blood meal. They lay eggs a few days later, and the cycle begins again. Mosquitoes that develop in man made containers usually found around the home have a short flight range. Adult mosquitoes may live 2-3 weeks, but during this time the female can take several blood meals and lay hundreds of eggs.

# Mosquito Life Cycle



## Mosquitoes and Disease

Mosquitoes are vectors (carriers) of many diseases around the world. The earliest inhabitants of Miami were affected by outbreaks of malaria, yellow fever, and dengue fever. These diseases have been practically eliminated as a result of effective mosquito control, medical treatment, and improved living conditions; however, the potential for new outbreaks still exists. The major classes of illness spread by mosquitoes in Florida are the viral encephalitis viruses, such as West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, and most recently Dengue Fever.

## Suggestions for Controlling Mosquitoes

### Around the Home

- Repair screening on windows, doors, porches and patios.
- Keep gutters clear so they will drain properly.
- Check and empty:
  - Children's toys
  - Untreated swimming pools
  - Uncovered boats / watercrafts that are not draining water
  - Trash cans and lids
- Change water in birdbaths and flush bromeliads once or twice a week.
- Stock untreated and decorative pools with mosquito fish.
- Do not allow water to accumulate at the base of flower pots or in pet dishes for more than 2 days.
- Check around faucets and air conditioner units and repair leaks or puddles that remain for several days.
- Remove, drain or fill tree holes and stumps with mortar.
- Irrigate lawns and gardens carefully to prevent water from standing for several days.



**We can all make a difference!**