

Mosquitoes and Construction Sites

Disease-spreading mosquitoes can breed in nearly any container that holds water. This can include items around a construction site, such as water-filled jersey barriers, concrete floors, construction dumpsters, drums, five-gallon buckets, plastic litter, empty cans and bottles, plumbing and duct banks, elevator vaults and the like.

If you manage a construction site, here's how you can reduce mosquitoes at your site:

WATER-FILLED CONSTRUCTION BARRIERS

Water-filled construction barriers can breed mosquitoes. Even when empty, rainwater can enter through cracks or an open drain plug. Here's how to keep them from breeding mosquitoes:

- Treat them with a commercially available mosquito larvicide that contains Bti (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*), methoprene, or larviciding oil.
- Cover and seal barriers properly, replace damaged barriers.

CONSTRUCTION DUMPSTER

Mosquitoes take about one week to go from egg to adult. Have your construction dumpster emptied at least once per week to break up the mosquito life cycle. Additionally, treat dumpsters with a commercially available larvicide (see above).

FIVE-GALLON BUCKETS, PLUMBING AND DUCT BANKS, AND OTHER SMALL CONTAINERS

Here's how to keep these items from breeding mosquitoes:

- Remove any unnecessary containers such as buckets; for containers you do need, either turn them upside down or store them where they can't fill up with rainwater.
- Discard or eliminate old bathtubs, sinks, toilets, or other plumbing fixtures. If you need to keep them onsite, cover them or store them where they can't fill up with rainwater.
- Keep building materials and supplies off the ground and positioned in such a way as to avoid creating areas of standing water and areas that are inaccessible for treatment.
- Seal duct banks and keep shower, spa, and pool areas free of water.

CANS, BOTTLES AND OTHER FOOD AND BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

Provide workers with a container or bag for proper disposal of cans, bottles and food or beverage containers when they're done.

Mosquitoes can lay eggs in an item as small as a bottle cap from a water or soda bottle.

- Keep work areas in workmanlike order.
- Treat elevator vaults with a commercially available larvicide (see above).

PROTECT YOUR WORKERS FROM MOSQUITO BITES

Make sure workers wear long sleeves, long pants and socks, and put on mosquito repellent.

For more information on mosquito control in Miami-Dade County, call 311 or visit www.miamidade.gov/mosquito.

DRAIN & COVER

