Managing mosquitoes around the home

Fact sheet

While mosquitoes can be a nuisance, certain species can also spread disease causing viruses (arboviruses) when they bite. In South Australia arboviruses of concern include Ross River virus, Barmah Forest virus, West Nile virus Kunjin strain, Japanese encephalitis virus and Murray Valley encephalitis virus.

The mosquitoes that spread these diseases can be found inside or around your home, so it is important to take precautions to prevent mosquitoes from breeding on your property

Prevent mosquitoes from entering the home

Preventing mosquitoes from entering your home will decrease the risk of mosquito bites. To prevent mosquitoes from entering your home, consider the following advice:

- Keep doors and windows closed.
- Ensure doors, windows, and vents are fitted with fly screen mesh with no larger than 1.2mm openings.
- Cover sleeping areas with mosquito nets or insect screens.
- Use aerosol or surface insect spray. Always follow instructions on the label.

Prevent mosquito breeding

Mosquitoes can breed in containers or tanks used to store stormwater, greywater, and rainwater. To prevent mosquitoes from breeding in containers or tanks, consider the following advice:

- Empty and refill birdbaths, stock troughs, and pet drinking bowls at least once a week.
- Empty wading pools at the end of each day.
- Remove or upturn any receptacles that may hold water e.g., pots, tyres, or toys.
- Fill plant pot saucers with sand.
- Keep vegetation around ponds or dams to a minimum.

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- Keep lawns trimmed to reduce the areas where mosquitos can rest and fill tree holes to prevent them from filling with water.
- Maintain roof gutters and remove leaves and debris so that pools of water do not form.
- Consider adding native fish to ponds or dams as they are predators to mosquito larvae. If introducing native fish it is important to choose the correct type for your location further information can be found on the Department for Environment and Water website.
- Maintain and disinfect swimming pools. Ensure they are well maintained or covered securely or emptied when not in use. Please refer to the SA Health fact sheet Managing mosquitoes in swimming pools, spas, and ponds for further information.
- Use mosquito-proof mesh to cover over septic tank openings, wells, or other large water containers. Please refer to the SA Health fact sheet Managing mosquitoes in septic tanks for further information.

Water conservation, collection or storage

Preventing mosquitoes from entering your home will decrease the risk of mosquito bites. To prevent mosquitoes from entering your home, consider the following advice:

- Water tanks and containers should be emptied, fitted with a sealing lid, or openings covered with mosquito-proof mesh. Please refer to the SA Health fact sheet Managing mosquitoes in rainwater tanks for further information.
- If mosquito larvae are present in water tanks or containers, screen or close-off the point of entry.
- Do not allow water to pool in containers below the outlets of taps.

Protect yourself

Information on how to protect yourself from mosquito borne disease can be found on the SA Health Mozzies Suck webpage.