

MOSQUITO CONTROL 2017

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 the upcoming months. Mosquitoes that have fed on infected animals or humans can transmit Zika, West Nile virus (WNV), LaCrosse encephalitis, or other diseases to humans, wildlife, and domestic animals.

There are two general ways to minimize mosquito bites:



1 Reduce mosquitoes in your area



2 Reduce mosquitoes' attraction to you and your family



*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!*



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 – control mosquitoes using biological methods such as fish or are not treated in order to preserve natural balances.

General spraying to kill adult mosquitoes will only be 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.



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.



Larvicide briquets can be purchased in home improvement or lawn and garden stores. **Larvicide briquets should be used in standing water that cannot be eliminated or dumped out.** These briquets kill mosquito larvae before they become adults, but do not harm other animals or humans.



The Zika virus has been of particular concern in recent years. It is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito. These mosquitoes are found in most states, including Georgia.

Many people infected don't know they have Zika because they don't have symptoms. Common symptoms include fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting up to a week. People usually don't get sick enough to go to the hospital and very rarely die of Zika. However, Zika infection during pregnancy can cause serious birth defects. Links to more information about Zika can be found at athensclarkecounty.com/mosquito.

The best prevention against Zika and other mosquito-transmitted diseases is to protect against mosquito bites.

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

MOSQUITO CONTROL TIPS



Eliminate standing water.
When in doubt, dump it out.



Dispose of any trash that can hold water, especially tires. Almost anything that can hold water for a week - even a chip bag - can hold mosquito larvae.



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



Rain barrels may need larvacide briquets in them if insect screening / sealing is not used on openings.



Check tarps, covers, and gutters that may collect water.



Change water in plant containers and birdbaths at least weekly.



Remove or trim excess vegetation such as ivy to eliminate adult mosquito resting areas.



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



Sit by a fan to repel mosquitoes; 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. If using devices, continue using repellent and reducing standing water.



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



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