

## NEW HANOVER COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL BACK YARD TIPS:

<b>Places to check:</b>	<b>How to keep your yard from being a breeding ground for mosquitoes.....</b>
	Make sure you wash your pet bowl at least once a week
	Make sure items like wheel barrels or buckets cannot hold water. Keep them turned over or stored under cover. Even the lip of a bucket can produce mosquitoes.
	Check for old tires and either get rid of them or keep them under a roof. Drill holes in the bottom of a tire swing or fill it with sand. New Hanover County Landfill accepts 5 tires per individual for free.
	Change the water in your plant trivets once a week or make sure they do not have standing water. Clean your plant trivets/saucers often to remove mosquito eggs. Mosquitoes only need a small amount of water and these shallow trivets can produce 100s of mosquitoes.
	Kayaks and canoes can be large reservoirs for mosquitoes. Keep these turned upside down.
	Do you have a kid's pool? Where is it stored? Is it holding water? Is the water cleaned once a week? Even when empty and not in use, the folds in the pool can hold water that can breed mosquitoes.
	Make sure you clean and scrub the bird bath once a week to remove mosquito eggs. Flush it with fresh tap water.
	Check your wagons, big wheels, bikes, etc. These can all hold water too!
	Don't leave your toys outside. Put them under cover because they can hold a lot of water and mosquitoes love to lay their eggs in these toys. If water can get into them, so can mosquitoes.
	Fill your tree holes with sand so they do not hold water. Before there were containers, certain mosquitoes naturally laid their eggs in tree holes.
	Make sure your gutters are clean and all leaf debris is removed so that rain water can flow out. These are great places to check for mosquito larvae as they are out of site and out of mind.
	Trash cans and recycle containers can hold water too. Make sure they have tight fitting lids and if not, make sure you drill holes in the bottom of them so water will drain from them.

	<p>Jars and cans can hold water....look for these in your yard and dump the water out and recycle them (Tip and Toss).</p>
	<p>Pool covers often get neglected and will hold rainwater that can produce large numbers of mosquitoes. Make sure the pool cover is tented in the middle to shed all water off the cover.</p>
	<p>Tarps can be used to cover things that hold water, but if they are not used right, they can hold water themselves and breed tons of mosquitoes in all the pockets. Make sure that if you use a tarp, it is tented in the middle to shed all water. Otherwise, think about getting rid of stuff or storing containers that hold water in a shed.</p>
	<p>Corrugated pipes from gutters will hold water. Mosquitoes can travel down a gutter spout into the corrugated pipe that is underground and still manage to lay their eggs in the pipe where water stands. Think about other ways to shed rain water from gutters such as using a rain barrel with a tight fitting screen so that mosquitoes cannot enter to lay their eggs.</p>
	<p>Boats should be covered too so that water does not accumulate in the different compartments. These can breed thousands of mosquitoes. Check around the pump and make sure all water can be drained.</p>
	<p>Check screens and seals on rainwater tanks. Make sure they are tight fitting and that there are no large holes in the screen. Mosquitoes can fit through small openings.</p>
	<p>Check lids of buckets to make sure they do not hold water. If they do, keep them under cover.</p>
	<p>Clean out your ditches around your home so that the water will flow freely. Mosquitoes will not lay their eggs in moving water. If your ditches don't drain, try stocking them with small native fish.</p>
	<p>Keep the water flowing in your ornamental pond or make sure you stock your pond with native fish. Small fish are natural predators of mosquito larvae along with other creatures such as tadpoles.</p>
	<p>You may have places in your yard that are depressions and can hold water. Think about planting native plants that can live in wetter soil (such as a rain garden). These plants will do the work for you by sucking up the water and adding beauty to your yard.</p>
	<p>If you still have problems with mosquitoes, check with your neighbors and educate them about the places that mosquitoes can breed. Hopefully, they will do their part too so that everyone will be able to enjoy the outdoors more freely without getting bit by mosquitoes.</p>

Call New Hanover County Vector Control for more information: (910) 798-6667 or visit us on the web at

<http://health.nhcgov.com/your-environment/public-health/>

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