

Mosquitoes

QUICK STATS:

Color: Varies; Pale brown with whitish stripes across abdomen

Shape: Narrow Oval

Size: ¼ to 3/8 Inch



OVERVIEW

One of the best known killer pests, mosquitoes breed in stagnant water or soft soil and can develop from egg to adult in 10 to 14 days.

HABITS

Mosquitoes breed in stagnant water sources such as storm drains, old tires, children's wading pools and birdbaths.

Female mosquitoes suck our blood. Male mosquitoes feed on plant nectars. They can develop from egg to adult in 10 to 14 days. They are most active from dusk to dawn and will fly up to 14 miles for a blood meal.

THREATS

Mosquitoes are well-known to spread diseases such as West Nile Virus, Malaria and Dengue fever, which are all life threatening diseases if proper care not taken.

PREVENTION

- Eliminate or reduce mosquito breeding sites by replacing all standing water at least once a week. This includes bird baths, ponds and unfiltered pools.
- Remove unneeded vegetation or trash from around any standing water sources that cannot be changed, dumped or removed.
- For passive mosquito management, introduce mosquito-eating fish such as gambusia, green sunfish, bluegills and minnows to standing water.
- Screen windows, doors and other openings with mesh.
- Avoid going outdoors when and where mosquitoes are most active: during dusk or dawn.
- For stronger mosquito treatment, use insect repellent containing DEET on exposed skin whenever or wherever mosquitoes are likely to bite.
- This is not a pest which can be controlled easily; a professional pest management firm can inspect and identify living areas and provide further guidance on control.

DID YOU KNOW? Mosquitoes

- The African Region accounts for 85% of malaria cases and 90% of malaria deaths worldwide.
- 85% of malaria deaths occur in children under five years of age. Every 30 seconds a child dies from malaria. Malaria episodes in pregnant women cause anemia, and other complications in the mother and newborn child.