

Mosquito Proofing Your Home—

For homeowners, the most effective method of controlling mosquitoes is eliminating standing water where mosquitoes can breed, thus reducing the availability of water suitable for larval and pupal growth. Examine your home and neighborhood, and take the following precautions:

- Dispose of water holders, such as automobile tires, tin cans, glass bottles, etc.
- Clean clogged roof gutters, and drain flat roofs.
- Flush your sump-pump pit weekly.
- Stock ornamental pools with mosquito-larvae-eating fish (Gambusia).
- Change the water in birdbaths, fountains, and troughs at least twice a week.
- Use plants that attract other insects such as dragon- flies (nymphs) and certain aquatic beetles that feed on mosquito larvae.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, and empty them when not regularly used.
- Drain standing water, and turn over unused wading pools and other containers that collect rainwater.
- Cover containers used to store rainwater for garden use tightly; use window screen or plastic during drought periods.
- Remove or treat sewage leaks and lagoons.
- Remove or treat natural containers such as bamboo stumps, rot holes of trees, etc.

Use the following measures to keep mosquitoes out of your home:

- Install 16- to 18-mesh window and door screen.
- Repair broken screens on windows, doors, and porches.
- Caulk cracks and crevices where insects can enter.
- Remove tall weeds and overgrowth where mosquitoes prefer to rest.