

National Mosquito Control Awareness Week

June 18 – June 24, 2023

The week of **June 18– June 24, 2023** is declared as “**National Mosquito Control Awareness Week**” to educate the general public about the significance of mosquitoes in their daily lives and the important service provided by mosquito control workers.

In observance of the event, *Middlesex County Mosquito Extermination Commission* is urging residents to take a proactive approach to controlling mosquitoes in the community and guarding against bites and mosquito borne diseases during this week and throughout the year.

Tips to protect yourself and your family from mosquito bites and prevent mosquito-borne diseases like West Nile virus:

PREVENT:

- Eliminate or manage all sources of standing water to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs. All mosquitoes need standing water to complete their life cycle. Once a week, empty or throw out items that hold water, such as scrap tires, buckets, planters, toys, pool covers, birdbaths, downspouts, flowerpots, trash containers, etc.
- Cut down weeds, trim and maintain shrubs and grass to limit adult mosquitoes resting/harboring in the vegetation.
- Ensure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

PROTECT:


- Avoid being outside during dawn and dusk times. This is when many mosquito species are most active.
- Wear long, loose-fitting, and light-colored clothing if outdoors when possible. Mosquitoes look for exposed skin to bite and are more attracted to dark colored clothing.
- Apply an effective insect repellent, such as DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, and Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE). Always apply according to the label instructions.

REPORT:

- Contact the County Mosquito Commission either by phone at **732-549-0665** or via our website link “[Request for Inspection/Service](https://www.middlesexcountynj.gov/government/departments/departments-of-public-safety-and-health/middlesex-county-mosquito-commission)” for any additional mosquito problem.
<https://www.middlesexcountynj.gov/government/departments/departments-of-public-safety-and-health/middlesex-county-mosquito-commission>

Middlesex County
Mosquito Extermination Commission
200 Parsonage Rd. Edison NJ 08837





Mosquito Prevention and Protection

Always remember the 3 D's of protection from mosquitoes



Drain

Many mosquito problems in your neighborhood are likely to come from water-filled containers that you, the resident, can help to eliminate. All mosquitoes require water in which to breed. Be sure to drain any standing water around your house.

- Dispose of any tires. Tires can breed thousands of mosquitoes.
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers.
- Clear roof gutters of debris.
- Clean pet water dishes regularly.
- Check and empty children's toys.
- Repair leaky outdoor faucets.
- Change the water in bird baths at least once a week.
- Canoes and other boats should be turned over.
- Avoid water collecting on pool covers.
- Empty water collected in tarps around the yard or on woodpiles.
- Plug tree holes.
- Even the smallest of containers that can collect water can breed hundreds to thousands of mosquitoes. They don't need much water to lay their eggs. (bottles, barrels, buckets, overturned garbage can lids, etc.)



Dress

Wear light colored, loose fitting clothing. Studies have shown that some of the 174 mosquito species in the United States are more attracted to dark clothing and most can readily bite through tight-fitting clothing of loose weave. When practical, wear long sleeves and pants.



Defend

Choose a mosquito repellent that has been registered by the Environmental Protection Agency. Registered products have been reviewed, approved, and pose minimal risk for human safety when used according to label directions. Four repellents that are approved and recommended are:

- DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide)
- Picaridin (KBR 3023)
- Oil of lemon eucalyptus (p-methane 3,8-diol, or PMD)
- IR3535

Here are some rules to follow when using repellents:

- Read the directions on the label carefully before applying.
- Apply repellent sparingly, only to exposed skin (not on clothing).
- Keep repellents away from eyes, nostrils and lips: do not inhale or ingest repellents or get them into the eyes.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) suggests that DEET-based repellents can be used on children as young as two months of age. Generally, the AAP recommends concentrations of 10% or less, unless disease risk is imminent, then concentration can be increased to 30% or less.
- Avoid applying repellents to portions of children's hands that are likely to have contact with eyes or mouth.
- Repellents can be used by pregnant or nursing women. The EPA does not recommend any additional precautions for repellent use by pregnant or nursing women.
- Never use repellents on wounds or irritated skin.
- Use repellent sparingly and reapply as needed. Saturation does not increase efficacy.
- Wash repellent-treated skin after coming indoors.
- If a suspected reaction to insect repellents occurs, wash treated skin, and call a physician. Take the repellent container to the physician.