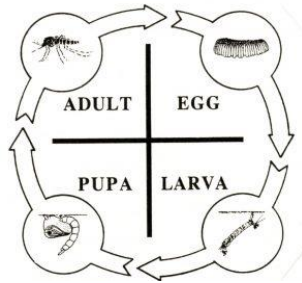


# Reducing Mosquito Populations around the Home



Mosquitoes are pesky and irritating. But they are also prone to carry diseases, so mosquito control is important. Mosquitoes undergo four stages of life: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Mosquito control involves disrupting certain parts of their life cycle. This may reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home and community. Some control involves disrupting the egg and larva stages. Mosquito rings (also known as mosquito dunks,) contains bacteria called BTI that are harmful only to mosquito larvae. They are used in ponds and other still bodies of water, and are nontoxic to all other wildlife.

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in still sources of water. This could be a source as large as a pond, or as small as an overturned bottle cap. Make sure you remove any still water sources around your home, such as puddles, buckets, toys, old plant pots or old tires. Wipe out bird baths frequently. Maintain your swimming pool to prevent mosquito breeding.



Adult mosquitoes can lay their eggs in any still source of water, such as these buckets filled with rainwater.

Adult mosquito control is another possibility. Keep your lawn and shrubbery trimmed short to reduce the places they can rest. Be sure to keep windows screened and free of holes. Consider insect repellent, which can include sprays, clothing, and foggers. Insecticides are also available but be sure to read and follow the directions on the

labels. Some products are designed to be applied directly to water to control mosquito larvae, while others are used more broadly to control adult mosquitoes.

There are chemical and biological options to control mosquito populations. Visit the [EPA's website](#) for more information.