



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Jeff Hamm *Health Agency Director*

Penny Borenstein, MD, MPH *Health Officer/Public Health Director*

GUIDANCE FOR MOSQUITO REDUCTION ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

Urban and suburban mosquito sources are especially problematic because they produce mosquitoes in areas of high population density where many people live and work. This can quickly lead to mosquito-borne disease transmission since mosquitoes and humans are often in close proximity. These guidelines are based on the California Department of Public Health (CDPH)/Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC) Best Management Practices guide and are intended to assist property owners and managers.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE – Eliminate man-made mosquito breeding sites and harborage:

1. Examine outdoor areas and drain temporary and unnecessary water that may stand longer than 96 hours.
2. Be aware of containers and objects that are subject to collecting water including pet dishes, potted plant drip trays, boats, birdbaths, and tires and buckets. Change water at least once per week. Mosquitoes can develop in as little as a 1/8" of standing water. Dispose of unwanted or unused artificial containers.
3. If possible, drill drainage holes, cover, or invert any container or object, that holds standing water and must remain outdoors. Be sure to check for containers or trash in places that may be hard to see, such as under bushes or buildings.
4. Ensure regular chlorination of swimming pools and that pumps and filters are operating. Unused or abandoned pools should be kept empty and dry.
5. Properly dispose of any old tires that may collect water.
6. Clean clogged rain gutters and storm drains. Keep outdoor drains flowing freely and clear of leaves, vegetation, and other debris.
7. Use waterfalls, fountains, aerators, and/or mosquitofish in ponds and ornamental water features.
8. Minimize sites mosquitoes can use for refuge (harborage) by thinning branches, trimming and pruning ornamental shrubs and bushes, and keeping grass mowed short.
9. Install screens on small drains and keep them free of water and debris.
10. Back-fill tire ruts or other low areas that hold water for more than 96 hours.

Note: A diagram of common backyard mosquito sources can be found on the back of this page.

Environmental Health Services

2156 Sierra Way, Suite B | San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 | (P) 805-781-5544 | (F) 805-781-4211

www.slopublichealth.org/ehs

Common Backyard Mosquito Sources

