

Mosquito Habitat

All mosquitoes require water for their eggs to hatch and for the larvae and pupae to survive. Different mosquito species prefer different habitats.

These habitats can be broken down into containers, floodwater, and permanent water.

Containers



Container habitats are ones that are man-made or natural that hold water. They are frequently in backyards such as plant saucers, tires, buckets, and more. Disease and nuisance mosquito species are associated with this habitat.

Floodwater



Floodwater areas have temporary changes in moisture based on weather. These could be near permanent water, retention ponds, or drainage ditches. Many nuisance mosquito species are associated with this habitat.

Permanent Water



Ponds, Lakes, Wetlands, Etc. These established areas have natural predators that feed on mosquito larvae, but still produce mosquitoes. Disease and nuisance mosquitoes are typically not associated with this natural habitat.

Mosquito Habitat Checklist



Habitat	Solution
Containers, tires, etc.	Empty or recycle
Rain barrels	Cover with screening
Plant saucers	Dump excess water
Bird baths	Change water twice weekly
Boats, canoes, jet skis	Keep covered or store upside down
Gutters, drainage ditches, and culverts	Clean out leaves and debris
Drain pipes	Cover end of corrugated pipes
Tarps	Keep them tight and clear of debris
Swimming pools	Keep unused pools covered
Ornamental ponds	Use an aerator
Outdoor faucets	Repair leaks that may leave puddles
Tire ruts	Backfill ruts to prevent standing water

What makes the PA DEP and its grant funded counties public applicators?

The PA DEP coordinates the Commonwealth's mosquito control program with focus on counties at the highest risk of mosquito-borne disease. This concept incorporates comprehensive mosquito surveillance and control. The PA DEP, with the support of legislature, provides funding to a network of counties to protect against disease and alleviate public nuisances. Because this is a taxpayer dollar funded program, applications are performed by licensed employees at no cost to citizens, though treatment is only performed when certain thresholds are met according to integrated mosquito management principles. In accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency and Clean Water Act, we operate under an NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System) permit which ensures that our applications do not harm the environment. Applications are performed on public and private properties (emphasis on public property) on both large and small-scale levels. Large scale can include entire neighborhoods or communities, and small scale can include individual properties or areas of mosquito habitat.

