

# Mosquito Control: What You Need to Know About Outdoor Spraying

Mosquitoes can spread viruses like West Nile and Zika. They can live both inside and outside. If you have mosquitoes outside your home, spraying an insecticide may reduce the number of mosquitoes and your chances of being bitten by a mosquito infected with a virus.

## Select and use outdoor insect spray products

- ◆ Read product labels and choose one that kills mosquitoes.
- ◆ Outdoor insect spray products are available as:
  - ◆ **Foggers or aerosols:** These products are used to kill mosquitoes in the air.
  - ◆ **Sprays:** These products are applied to surfaces where mosquitoes rest. Mosquitoes die when they come into contact with these surfaces.
- ◆ Always follow the product label instructions. Do not apply more product than directed or reapply more often than stated on product label instructions.
- ◆ Once dried, products are unlikely to cause health problems.



Applying outdoor insect spray to plants.  
Photo courtesy of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District

## Treat areas where mosquitoes rest

Mosquitoes rest in cool, dark, humid places in your yard. Treat areas where they rest including in sheds and children's playhouses, and under decks, furniture, and playground equipment.

## Additional steps to control mosquitoes outdoors

Outdoor spraying alone will not keep your yard free of mosquitoes. Follow these additional steps to help reduce the number of mosquitoes outside your home:

- ◆ **Once a week**, empty and scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out any items that hold water, like flowerpot saucers, birdbaths, toys, buckets, and trash containers.
- ◆ Regularly mow your lawn and cut down weeds near your house.
- ◆ Keep rain barrels tightly covered.
- ◆ Keep rain gutters clean.

## Prefer to hire a pest control professional?

Hire a pest control professional to treat your home. The National Pest Management Association offers tips on finding a pest management professional at: <http://www.pestworld.org/pest-control-help/>.

## Information on Insecticides and Health:

- ◆ The [US Environmental Protection Agency](#) oversees the registration of these chemicals.
- ◆ The [National Pesticide Information Center \(NPIC\)](#) provides information online or through a toll-free number, 1-800-858-7378.

**If you are experiencing health problems for any reason, see your doctor or healthcare provider.**

**Mosquito Control: You Have Options.**

Learn more: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/controlling-mosquitoes-at-home.html>



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