

Mosquitoes: Prevention Tips



Mosquitoes are more than just annoying – they are a public health risk and can disrupt how your business operates. In North America, mosquitoes are responsible for the spread of dangerous diseases such as West Nile virus, Eastern equine encephalitis, and LaCrosse virus. Take mosquito prevention seriously; start today with these expert tips.

Where you might see them

- During the day, mosquitoes rest on shrubs and in shaded areas.
- Most mosquito species are active outside at dusk and dawn.
- *Aedes aegypti* are aggressive daytime biters that seek hosts and rest indoors.
- Some species of mosquitoes lay their eggs in ponds, pools, or even puddles that contain dense vegetation, sediment, or algae.
- Disease-carrying mosquitoes can be found in most parts of Canada and every state in the United States.
- Mosquitoes prefer warmer temperatures, but they will remain active as long as the temperature is over 10° C (50° F).

Tips for prevention

- Outdoor workers should wear long sleeve shirts, long pants, and a Health Canada-approved insect repellent for protection.
- Ensure objects that collect water are removed or have proper drainage, such as: bird baths, outdoor seating, trash cans, cigarette extinguishers, and play equipment.
- Clean gutters regularly, removing leaves and debris to allow water to flow freely.
- Periodically review your automatic sprinkler systems, especially in periods of rain, to prevent over watering.
- Repair exterior plumbing issues to minimize accumulations of water.
- Evaluate parking lots. Grade, resurface or patch potholes or areas that collect water or do not drain properly.
- Regularly survey storm grates or other points of water drainage on your property to ensure they are not obstructed by debris.
- Drainage ditches may be problematic. Work with your property manager or local municipality to drain regularly or have them treated.

ID and biology

- There are more than 3,000 species of mosquitoes in the world; approximately 200 of those are found in North America.
- The top three mosquito species in North America are: Anopheles, Aedes, and Culex.
- Mosquito eggs can hatch within 48 hours of being laid, while some can remain dormant for months or years.
- Newly hatched mosquito larvae can develop into an adult mosquito in as little as 4 days to a month, depending on environmental conditions.
- All mosquitoes feed on nectar. Only female mosquitoes need blood for reproduction.
- The average lifespan of a female mosquito is about 6 weeks, but with adequate food, they can live up to 5 months.

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