

ADULT MOSQUITO CONTROL MEASURES

Aerosol sprays can be used in the house and in the yard to control adult mosquitoes. However, outdoor areas are more difficult to treat with an aerosol and therefore foliage sprays applied to shrubs and grassy areas are usually better for use in the yard. Be sure to **READ THE LABEL**, and follow all precautions listed on the insecticide container. Remember, chemical control of mosquitoes is a short-term remedy and is usually more expensive and less effective than eliminating the breeding source.

Mosquitoes may be prevented from coming indoors by properly screening windows and doors. When you must remain outdoors, commercial repellents can provide personal protection, but be sure you **READ THE LABEL** and follow the directions.

MOSQUITO CONTROL IS A JOB FOR EVERYONE

If you and your neighbors do your part to control the common house mosquito by eliminating backyard-breeding areas, it will help free the Mosquito Commission and its personnel to concentrate on the larger mosquito problems in Middlesex County.

If you have a mosquito problem that you need help with or if you need additional advice, please call the Middlesex County Mosquito Extermination Commission at (732)549-0665.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION



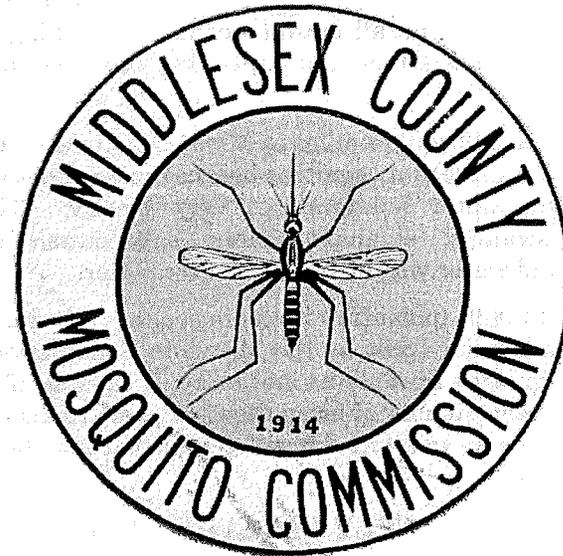
Internet:

American Mosquito Control Association (mosquito.org)

New Jersey Mosquito Control Association, Inc. (njmca.org)

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MOSQUITO CONTROL AT HOME AND AT WORK



MIDDLESEX COUNTY
MOSQUITO EXTERMINATION COMMISSION
200 PARSONAGE ROAD
EDISON, NJ 08837-2118

MOSQUITOES AT HOME AND AT WORK

If you and your neighbors don't like mosquitoes in and around your home or business, there is something you can do about it.

First, learn about your enemy – mosquitoes. There are more than 40 different species of mosquitoes in Middlesex County. Some do not bite people and some never become numerous enough to be a problem. Some bite during the day and others bite at night. Some fly for many miles and some travel only a few hundred feet during their lifetime. However, all mosquitoes have one thing in common; the immature stages (larvae and pupae) live in water before turning into adults.

There are 318 square miles in Middlesex County. Fortunately, not all of this can breed mosquitoes because mosquitoes grow only in water. These water habitats can vary greatly. They can be freshwater swamps, stagnant water, salt marsh depressions, floodwater, and water within any type of container.

Over 14,000 (potential) breeding sites are inspected and serviced on a regular basis by the Mosquito Commission. Many of these sites are large floodplains and swamps capable of periodically producing a great number of mosquitoes. There are also many other small areas, some as small as a 5-gallon pail that may be found right in your own yard.

ONLY FEMALES BITE

When adult mosquitoes emerge from water, they seek shelter in foliage or other shaded areas and remain there until their wings harden. In a short time, they begin to fly in search of food. The males are unable to bite and feed on plant nectar. Only female mosquitoes bite people or other animals. They bite to get blood for the development of their eggs. After the female has taken a blood meal, she lays 100 to 300 eggs. She may take several blood meals during her life and lay a batch of eggs for every blood meal. This characteristic makes it possible for some mosquitoes to transmit diseases such as eastern equine encephalitis and dog heartworm. It is possible for mosquitoes to go from egg to adult in 7 to 10 days. As a result, many generations may be produced each year. In Middlesex County the mosquito breeding season is generally from mid-March until the end of October.

CONTROL

(Water is the Key)

The most important part of mosquito control is denying the mosquito a place to breed. If there is no still water, there will be no mosquito breeding in the area. Many mosquitoes come from large floodplains and swamps, which can best be controlled by DEP licensed personnel employed by the Mosquito Commission. There may also be many small breeding sites in and around your home or place of business that you can control. These areas can produce the common house mosquito. This is frequently the species that is so annoying to you.

The female house mosquito looks for a place to lay her eggs such as: standing or stagnant water in ditches, and catch basins; water from overflowing or open septic or other waste systems; water that collects in buckets, cans, jars, barrels, boats, discarded tires, clogged roof gutters, tire ruts, wading pools, or pool covers; and any artificially created collection of water. All of these may be found around your home or place of business and can be the breeding site for thousands of mosquitoes.

You and your neighbors can help us in our attack against the house mosquito by making every possible effort to eliminate sources of standing water around your home or place of business.

Some of the things you can do are:

1. Dispose of all containers that can hold water. Those you want to save turn upside down or punch holes in the bottom so water drains out.
2. Clean roof gutters and drainage ditches.
3. Stock ornamental ponds with fish.
4. Change water in birdbaths, fountains and troughs weekly.
5. Make sure septic, air conditioning and other water tanks are sealed with screened vents.
6. Empty wading pools when not in use and keep swimming pools clean and filtered.
7. Make sure boats are covered or water drains out of them completely. Store small boats upside down.
8. Flush sump pumps weekly.
9. Maintain screening to exclude mosquitoes from house or business.