Life Cycle
Mosquito prevention and control involves a basic understanding of their life cycle.

- A mosquito life cycle has 4 stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult
  - The entire cycle can take as little as four days or as long as one month, depending on species and temperature
  - All mosquitoes must have water for their life cycle
  - Most eggs hatch within 48 hours

Mosquito Control and Prevention

- The best way to control mosquitoes is to remove potential egg laying sites

- Remove any sources of standing water
  - Add drainage holes to structures or containers that may trap water (barrels, old tires)
  - Change or circulate the water in pet bowls and bird baths at least once a week
  - Fill tree holes with sand, mortar or place drainage holes to prevent standing water
  - Clean roof gutters to prevent them from becoming clogged and holding water
  - Properly dispose of all trash, especially anything that could hold water

- Keep weeds and other vegetation mowed and trimmed to minimize shelter for adult mosquitoes

- For areas with ponds, consider stocking mosquito-eating fish

- Control of mosquito larvae
  - The use of larvicides is a consideration, but should only be used as a supplemental measure
  - Use only larvicides approved for use in your area; Check with your local extension office of department of pest management for a list of approved pesticides
  - Do not apply pesticides to moving water (i.e. streams)
  - Always read and follow all label directions
  - Non-chemical pesticides (e.g., Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis) may be an option
  - Methoprene products can be used to treat areas that collect water, such as bird baths, urns, old tires, flower pots, abandoned swimming pools, etc.

Control of Adult Mosquitoes
- This is the least efficient way to control mosquitoes
- Special equipment is needed to apply pesticides to kill adult mosquitoes (adulticides); small droplets are produced that drift through the air and contact adult mosquitoes to kill them
- Check with your local extension office or department of pest management to determine which pesticides are approved for use in your area
- The use of pesticides should only be supplemental to controlling mosquitoes through the reduction and management of mosquito egg laying sites
- Pyrethrin or 5% malathion can be fogged outdoors; Follow all label directions
- Contact your local extension agent for assistance in developing a mosquito management plan

Personal Protection
- Avoid being outdoors during prime mosquito biting times (dusk, dawn)
- Use insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin or Oil of lemon-eucalyptus [NOTE: DEET can be toxic to companion animals, so should not be used on pets]
- Keep windows, doors and porches tightly screened

With any mosquito control product, always read and follow all label directions carefully

It is a violation of state and federal law to use a pesticide in any manner that differs from the product label. Use only according to label directions to avoid environmental damage and animal or human injury.

For More Information


American Mosquito Control Association. Biological notes on mosquitoes. Available at: www.mosquitoes.org/LifeCycle.html

American Mosquito Control Association. Mosquito prevention and protection. Available at: www.mosquito.org