



MOSQUITO 101

Don't let mosquitoes suck up your summer fun. Use this information to identify mosquitoes, learn more about their bites and help prevent them from hanging around your home.

Types of Mosquitoes

Of more than 3,000 documented mosquito species worldwide, the United States is host to about 150. These three species are among the most common.



Asian tiger mosquito
(*Aedes albopictus*)

Can transmit chikungunya virus and dengue fever



Common house mosquito
(*Culex pipiens*)

Can transmit West Nile virus and encephalitis



Southern house mosquito
(*Culex quinquefasciatus*)

Can transmit West Nile virus and encephalitis

All About Bites

Q: WHY DO MOSQUITO BITES ITCH?

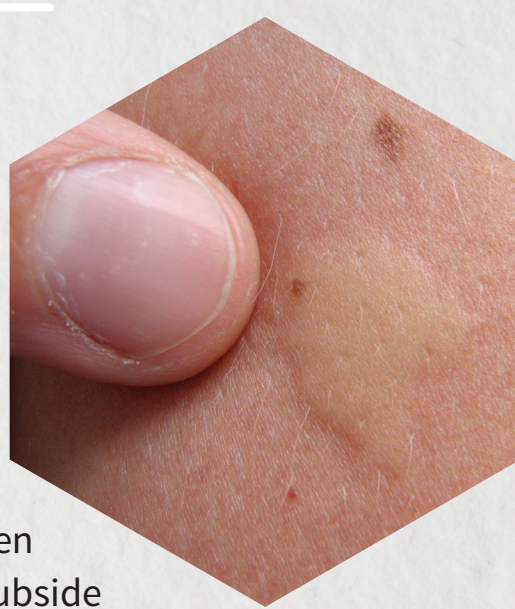
A: Our immune system responds to the saliva mosquitoes leave behind when they feed on our blood, releasing histamines that cause the skin to itch.

Q: WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF A BITE?

A: Symptoms include itching, swelling around the bite, soreness, bleeding and in some cases allergic reactions.

Q: HOW LONG DO SYMPTOMS LAST?

A: Symptoms can begin immediately, but it may be a few hours before you even notice you've been bitten. Most bites are harmless and symptoms subside in a few days, though they can last longer.



Q: HOW CAN I TREAT BITES?

A: Apply a cold compress or calamine lotion to affected areas to reduce swelling. Mild antihistamines may relieve itching.

Q: CAN MOSQUITO BITES MAKE ME SICK?

A: Yes. Mosquitoes can transmit malaria, encephalitis and yellow and dengue fevers, among other diseases. See a physician right away if you have any concerns about a bite.

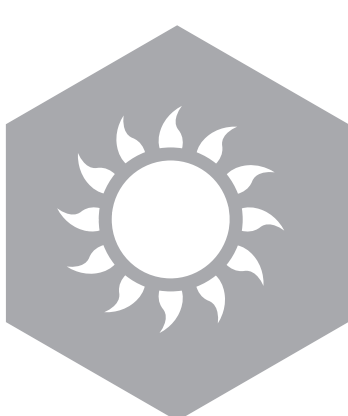
Control & Prevention

WHAT ATTRACTS MOSQUITOES?



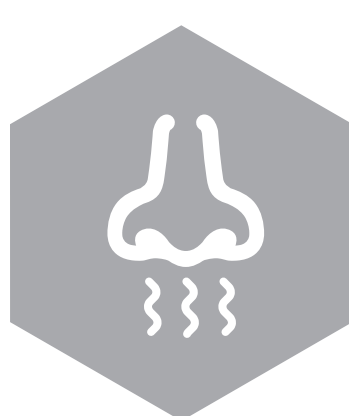
MOISTURE

(standing water sources)



HEAT

(exhaled gases)



SMELLS

(perfumes, scented soaps and lotions)

HOW DO I KEEP THEM AWAY?



PREVENT YOUR EXPOSURE

- Wear loose, layered clothing
- Use EPA-registered mosquito repellents when necessary
- Replace outdoor lights with yellow "bug" lights



ELIMINATE ENTRY POINTS

- Install window and door screens
- Keep doors closed – including pet doors
- Seal around air conditioning window units



REMOVE BREEDING GROUNDS

- Remove standing water from gutters, buckets and other containers
- Change water regularly in bird baths and wading pools
- Keep pool water treated and circulating