

Beat the bite!

Mosquito-proof your home



Mosquitoes are not just annoying – some mosquitoes can carry serious diseases. Follow these simple steps to stop mosquitoes breeding on your property and from getting inside your home.

Keep them out!

- Maintain fly screens on windows, doors, vents and chimneys. Screens should be no coarser than 12 x 12 meshes per 25mm, or 1.2mm. Use an even coarser mesh if you wish to keep out other smaller biting insects, like sandflies.
- If mosquitoes are particularly bad, consider using a long-acting surface spray in areas where mosquitoes like to rest. Apply according to the directions on the bottle, targeting areas like the shaded shrubbery near your home. Avoid spraying these products near fish ponds.
- Use ceiling or floor fans to reduce the chance of bites in your home.
- Use 'knockdown' fly spray against visible mosquitoes in your home.
- Consider using plug-in mosquito "zappers" or vaporisers in enclosed verandahs. These should be switched off as soon as the area is no longer in use. Consider using insect repellent at the same time.
- Use mosquito-coils in outdoor areas. These should be supervised at all times. Consider using insect repellent at the same time.
- Citronella candles are not effective unless they also contain an insecticide.
- Remember, it's best to try to prevent mosquitoes getting into your home in the first place!

Remove stagnant water so mosquitoes can't breed

- Mosquitoes can breed even in the tiniest amounts of water.
- You are first in line to be bitten by mosquitoes that breed in your own yard and garden!
- Clean up your yard and remove anything where water can collect, such as unused pots and tyres.
- Cover or overturn trailers, wheelbarrows, boats, tools and children's playground toys to avoid water collection.
- Regularly clean gutters and drains so water runs freely.
- Mend leaking taps.
- Change pet drinking bowls, bird baths and vase waters at least once a week, and more regularly in very warm weather.
- Put sand around the base of pot plants.
- Keep swimming pools well maintained or empty or securely covered if not in use.
- Keep fish ponds tidy with minimal vegetation around the edges.
- Keep lawns and gardens trimmed back to reduce the areas where mosquitoes rest.

Check and maintain your rainwater tank and water storage vessels

- Water tanks must be completely sealed. Check lids, covers and inlet pipes for any gaps.
- Fit removable screen mesh to the outlet end of overflow pipes and to all inlets.
- Make sure any water collection containers have secure lids or screens.

If you have any concerns about your health, see your doctor or phone NURSE-ON-CALL 1300 60 60 24

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