



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 18, 2011

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Drain and Cover to Prevent Mosquito Bites

PENSACOLA – The Escambia County Health Department advises the public to “drain and cover” to protect against mosquitoes. Drain standing water in and around your home to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs and cover your body to protect against bites. Mosquitoes are known carriers of West Nile Virus, and other disease-causing viruses.

“Given the recent rains we have experienced, mosquitoes may be more prevalent in the upcoming weeks,” says Dr. John J. Lanza, Director of the Escambia County Health Department. “Individuals should do all they can to avoid mosquito bites, in order to prevent the spread of infections carried by them.”

Adult mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing or slow-moving water. Even 1 teaspoon of water is adequate for breeding. Mosquitoes are most active during evenings, nighttime and dawn. People outdoors at these times are more likely to be bitten unless they cover their skin with clothes and/or an approved mosquito repellent.

To protect yourself against mosquito bites, please remember to drain and cover.

Drain standing water.

- Drain water from garbage cans, house gutters, buckets, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots or any other containers where sprinkler or rain water has collected. Water kept in containers in your house is also a potential breeding location for mosquitoes.
- Discard old tires, bottles, pots, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used.
- Empty and clean birdbaths and pets' water bowls at least once or twice a week.
- Protect boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water.
- Maintain swimming pools in good condition and adequately chlorinated. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

Cover skin with clothing or repellent and cover doors and windows.

- Clothing - Wear shoes, socks, long pants and long sleeves when mosquitoes are most prevalent.
- Use repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535.
- Always use repellents according to the label. Using too much repellent doesn't make it work better or last longer.
- Re-apply mosquito repellent as often as needed to prevent mosquito landings and bites.
- When using repellent on children, apply to your hands first and then rub on their arms and legs.
- Instead of repellent, use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months old.
- Place screens on windows, doors, porches, and patios and always repair broken screens.

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