



# Huron County Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.



## ELIMINATING STANDING WATER

Clean Up To Prevent Mosquito Breeding Grounds



Mosquitoes lay their eggs on the wet, inner walls of water-filled containers. Once the eggs come into contact with water they will begin to hatch, becoming adult mosquitoes, in about a week. Cleaning up yards and outdoor areas can help get rid of standing water near homes and decrease available areas for mosquitoes to lay their eggs.

### Tips for Eliminating Standing Water & Reducing the Mosquito Population

#### CLEAN UP OBJECTS OUT OF YARDS

To keep mosquitoes from laying eggs in items around homes, empty, scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out any objects that could hold water, like:

- Vases & Flowerpots
- Pool Covers
- Tires
- Birdbaths
- Buckets
- Trash Cans
- Pet Water Bowls
- Rain Barrels

Emptying or scrubbing out these objects once a week can help limit the mosquito population in areas where people live.

#### USE MOSQUITO DUNKS FOR POOLS & PONDS

For residents with pools, ponds, streams, large birdbaths, or other areas of water that cannot be emptied, using mosquito dunks is an option.

Mosquito dunks kill mosquito larvae before they are able to mature into biting adults, and aren't harmful to people, pets, fish or other wildlife.

#### STORE OPEN CONTAINERS SAFELY

Tightly cover containers used to store water. Use lids and mesh coverings over any open vents, plumbing pipes or other open containers.

#### OTHER MOSQUITO CONTROL OPTIONS

Some other options for residents may include using natural mosquito predators. Mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*) and Red-eared slider turtles will feed on mosquito larvae before they become adults. Adding them to ponds can help limit the mosquito population.

Another option is installing a bat box/house. Bats will feed on insects including mosquitoes. Using a bat box/house can attract bats and help reduce the mosquito population.

