

# YOU CAN REDUCE THE RISK OF WEST NILE VIRUS AROUND YOUR HOME!

**MOSQUITOES NEED WATER TO BREED. THE BASIC FORMULA FOR REDUCING THE MOSQUITO POPULATION AROUND YOUR HOME IS SIMPLE: ELIMINATE THEIR BREEDING SPOTS, REDUCE THEIR NUMBERS.**

**Clean your yard now – get rid of anything that collects water:**



Old tires  
Tin cans  
Buckets  
Flowerpots  
Drums, etc.

Patrol the area after **every** rain.

## **Keep puddles from forming:**

- ☐ Fill in any ruts or low places around your property.
- ☐ Repair any leaky pipes and outside faucets.
- ☐ Make sure your gutters and drainpipes are clean and running freely.
- ☐ Adjust tarps, grill covers and swimming pool covers to eliminate low spots that collect water.
- ☐ Store wheelbarrows upside down when not in use.

## **Stop stagnant water:**

- ☐ Change the water in kiddie pools and birdbaths every few days. (Empty and store them if you are away.)
- ☐ Cover your trash containers, recycling bins, etc.
- ☐ Empty drip trays under outside planters.
- ☐ Fill in tree rot holes and hollow stumps that hold water with sand or concrete.

## **And don't forget to...**

- ☐ Keep grass cut short and bushes trimmed near your house so mosquitoes can't hide.
- ☐ Check and repair windows and screens to prevent mosquitoes from entering your house.
- ☐ Avoid mosquito-breeding areas during peak periods of mosquito activity (dusk, dawn, after rain).
- ☐ Apply insect repellent sparingly to exposed skin (do not apply to the face). Follow the label directions carefully! Parents should avoid applying repellents to the hands of children and never allow children to apply repellents. Do not use repellents on very young children (<3 years old).

For more information, please contact:

Delaware County Intercommunity Health Coordination 610.891.5311 [www.co.delaware.pa.us](http://www.co.delaware.pa.us)

Penn State Cooperative Extension 610.690.2655

Pennsylvania Department of Health 1.877.PA.HEALTH [www.westnile.state.pa.us](http://www.westnile.state.pa.us)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [www.cdc.gov/nicdod/dybid/westnile/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nicdod/dybid/westnile/index.htm)