

# Mosquitoes

why we need to clean up our own back yards

*They're more than just a pain in the !\*#@!*

New Zealand is under threat from the unhealthy overseas relatives of our own mossies.

They may all look alike to us, but there are over 200 different species in Australia alone. Fortunately, New Zealand only has 15.

They're called 'exotic' mosquitoes but that doesn't make them more interesting – just more of a nuisance.

Many of them can carry dangerous diseases we don't have and don't want.

They can travel with us by air and sea, and our cooler climate doesn't always put them off staying.



Spot the places where mossies would breed in this garden.

## Avoid being bitten

Mosquitoes are often most active at dawn, around late afternoon and just after dusk.

If they're a problem –

### AT HOME

Put screens on windows and doors



Use sprays indoors when mosquitoes are around



Use mosquito coils



If sprays are a concern use non-allergenic products

### OUTDOORS

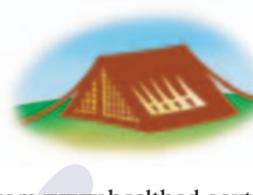
Wear a repellent cream or spray



Wear protective clothing



Use screens on tents



Avoid places where mossies are most active, such as swampy areas



## Life cycle of the mosquito



## What NZ is doing to stop them arriving

We have one of the best 'fences' in the world to keep them out.

Things entering our ports and airports are thoroughly checked – including water lying in such things as machinery or tyres. All aircraft from overseas are treated to kill insects.

No system is foolproof (we've had a few scares already).

We can do a lot to help stop mosquitoes from surviving if they do get here.

## Your place or mine?

They don't care.

They like to live and breed in standing water – any kind, anywhere, and in some very surprising places.

## What you can do to stop them

Make them feel unwelcome.

The best way to get rid of them is to stop them from breeding.

Getting rid of things that hold water is a simple way to do this.

## Mosquito control checklist

### FIRST

- ✳ Get rid of all tins, jars, bottles, plastic bags or other items that can lie around and hold water.
- ✳ Get rid of all old tyres and drill holes in the bottom of tyre swings.
- ✳ Fill or drain hollows in the ground that can hold water.
- ✳ Overturn boats, canoes and dinghies – in fact, anything you have to store outside that could hold water.
- ✳ Cover venting pipes on septic tanks with mosquito-proof covers.
- ✳ Seal or cover rainwater tanks.
- ✳ Stock ponds with fish (some fish love mosquito larvae). For information on species to use refer to the Department of Conservation pamphlet 'Is that a pest in my pond?'

### EVERY WEEK

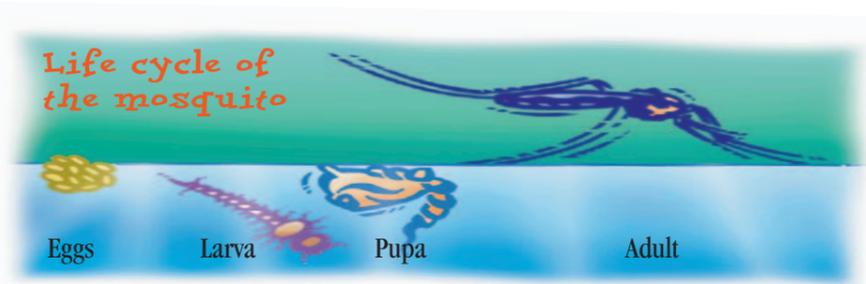
- ✳ Empty and clean pot plant saucers (even better, fill them with sand).
- ✳ Empty and clean animal and pet drinking water containers.
- ✳ Check gutters and drains are clear of leaves and blockages.
- ✳ Some pot plants hold water in their leaves – empty once a week.
- ✳ Keep swimming pools well chlorinated and filtered and free of dead leaves.
- ✳ Empty paddling pools.

For more information, contact your local District Health Board Public Health Units or call 0800 MOZZIE (0800 669 943).



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