

Fight the Mosquito Bite



Get smart about mosquitoes and take actions that benefit you, your family, and the natural world we all share.

Zika Prevention

St. Louis has been identified as a “high risk” area for the Zika virus, which can cause serious birth defects if contracted by pregnant women. The virus can be transmitted sexually as well as through mosquito bites. To protect yourself from mosquito-borne illnesses like Zika, the following actions are recommended:



Drain standing water—It only takes a small bottle capful of standing water to yield a whole new generation of mosquitoes! At least once a week, drain and scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out items that hold water. For areas where standing water is difficult to remove, such as ponds or rain barrels, mosquito Bti dunks (available at most hardware stores) are an effective way of killing mosquito larvae without harming other living things.

Dress in lightweight long sleeves and pants and treat clothing with mosquito repellent since mosquitoes can bite through clothing.

Mosquito-proof your home—Ensure the screens on your windows and doors are in working order. Use air conditioning when available. For assistance, contact Cool Down St. Louis: (314) 241-7668 or the City’s Senior Minor Home Repair and Chore Program: (314) 612-5918.

Use mosquito repellent—Use an approved mosquito repellent according to the instructions on its label, or for a more natural option, use oil of lemon eucalyptus.



Avoid sexual transmission of Zika—For more information, visit the Center of Disease Control’s website: www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/sexual-transmission-prevention.html

For more information, visit brightside.org/mosquito-ed



Protecting our Environment



Our city is diverse, colorful, creative, vibrant, and buzzing with life. Our outdoors – from our backyards and balconies to our forested parks, gardens, and other green spaces – invite exploration, adventure, rejuvenation, and relaxation.

Except when the mosquitoes are out. Regrettably, the rush to use pesticide sprays as a quick fix isn't the answer.

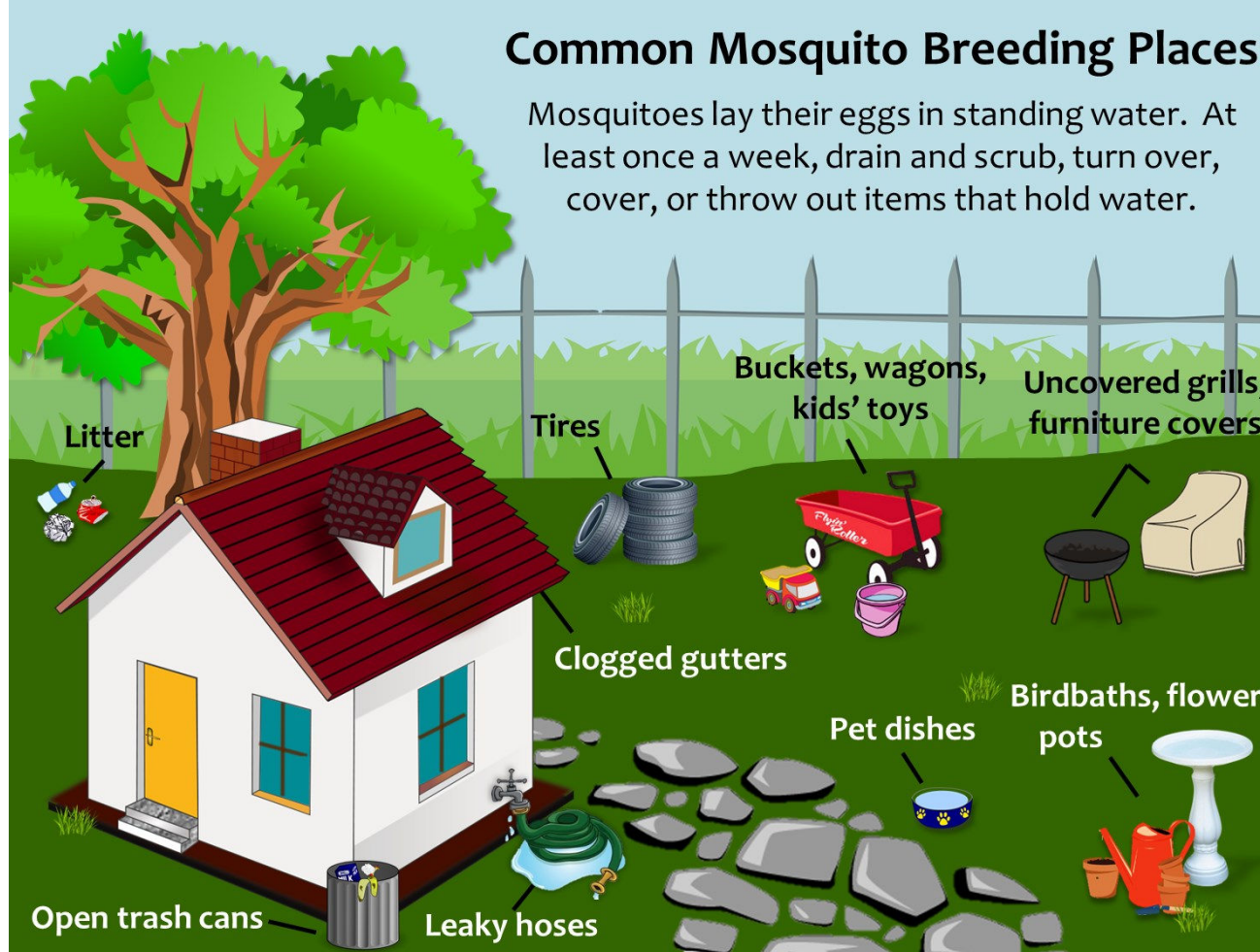
Do's and Don'ts of Sustainable Pest Control:

- When landscaping, **do** use native plants to invite a variety of wildlife into your space. Natural predators of mosquitoes such as bats and birds will visit, which can help control the mosquito population.
- **Don't** fog or spray your yard. These sprays are not effective at killing mosquitoes, but will kill many other beneficial insects, some of which may eat mosquitoes.



Common Mosquito Breeding Places

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. At least once a week, drain and scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out items that hold water.



Tires and Mosquito Breeding

One tire can produce up to 10,000 mosquitoes every year. Protect yourself, your family, and your neighbors by properly disposing of discarded tires.

- **If you have tires in your yard**, they may be put out in your alley for bulk pick-up (limit three items per household per month).
- **If you see a tire dump on a vacant lot or in an alley**, report it to the Citizens' Service Bureau at (314) 622-4800 or www.stlouis-mo.gov/csb.

Stop It, Don't Drop It!



Did You Know?

Litter not only holds standing water, which can serve as breeding sites for mosquitoes; littered neighborhoods experience lower property values, increased vandalism, and other crimes.

What Can I Do to Help?

- **Keep a bag in your car** to contain trash.
- **Pick up litter** when you see it (remember to recycle all bottles and cans in your blue bin!)
- **Find a nearby trash can** instead of dropping litter on the ground. On average, there are over 1,000 trash receptacles per square mile in the City of St. Louis!
- **Work with your neighbors to organize a community cleanup.** To borrow tools and trash bags, register your cleanup at www.brightsidestl.org or contact Brightside St. Louis at (314) 772-4646.