MOSQUITOES
A COMPLETE GUIDE
Mosquitoes are everywhere and you never have just one. They seem to swarm around certain areas and this can be a problem. Since mosquitoes feed on the blood of animals and humans, they have the ability to carry a number of diseases. Fatalities around the world have been linked to mosquitoes and this is reason enough as to why you don’t want them around.

The West Nile Virus, Malaria, and other diseases have been linked to mosquitoes. They are found in excess within the southern half of the United States and are spreading at growing alarms. Since they are a problem to your health and seem to be everywhere you look, it’s important to know how to keep them away from your home – or at least get a problem under control.

While you may not be able to eradicate the problem entirely, there is much that you can do. With the help of a pest control company, you can get the problem under control so that you don’t have to worry about being bitten every time you walk outside.

You don’t want mosquitoes hanging around your house because they can sting and cause an array of other problems.

Within this book, you will learn:

• How to identifying mosquitoes

• Why you don’t want them around

• How to treat problems

• How to prevent problems in the future
IDENTIFYING MOSQUITOES

It’s important that you know what a mosquito looks like so that you know what you have a problem with. Many times, if someone is bitten outside, they blame it on the mosquito when in fact it’s actually another flying insect.

Midges and crane flies are commonly mistaken for mosquitoes, so you want to know what you are looking for. All three belong to the diptera family, but the mosquito is the one that’s got the bad reputation for carrying around all sorts of diseases.

Mosquitoes are characterized by having long wings as well as an elongated proboscis that extends from the mouth part. The wings are also fringed in appearance, which actually are scales. The mosquito also has a slight humpback look because of the way it holds its body. The next time one of these lands on or near you, you can identify it and swat it before it has a chance to bite you (hopefully).

The females are the only ones that bite and they do this in order to get the blood that allows them to produce eggs. Males are harmless and are content to sip nectar from flowers. They won’t bite, so there’s no need to worry about them. The females will consume nectar as well, but when they are producing eggs, they need blood as part of their meal.

There are over 2500 species of mosquitoes around the world, though the United States only has about 150 of them. The common mosquito
is the one that is the most annoying. The western malaria mosquito, which is deadly due to the name and the disease in which it commonly carries, is not something that we have to worry about in the United States, at least not at this current time.

There are four life cycles for this pest: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Eggs are laid individually and they float on water. The eggs will stick together and form what looks like a raft and can consist of hundreds of eggs. They will typically hatch within 48 hours, going into the larvae form. They can live in water and molt four times before going into pupa. From there, they become an adult within two days and can rest on top of the water to dry out before going out into the world.

The life cycle can vary from species to species, but generally it is about 10 to 14 days. Hotter temperatures result in shorter life cycles.
WHY MOSQUITOES ARE BAD NEWS

Mosquitoes are bad news for a number of reasons. The most obvious is that they have a tendency to bite. When they bite, they leave behind red welts that itch and hurt. A summer can be filled with mosquito bites, which leads to no one wanting to spend time outdoors. This isn’t the way it should be. You should be able to go outdoors without having to worry about being attacked by these flying pests.

Some parts of the year and some parts of the country are inflicted by mosquitoes worse than others. This means you need to know about when they are the worst so that you can take the necessary precautions.

One of the other reasons that you want to avoid the mosquito is because they are associated with all sorts of diseases. Since they bite animals and humans, they are capable of transmitting diseases. All around the globe, people have died because of what the mosquito is able to transmit through its bite. Some of the diseases associated with mosquitoes include, Heartworm, Yellow Fever, Dengue Fever, Malaria, West Vile Virus and Arboviral Encephalitis’s.

Many experts thought that mosquitoes would only come out and bite during the hours of dusk and dawn. This is not the case, however. Various species, including the Asian tiger mosquito, will actually be found during the hours of 10 am and 3 pm, which means that there is no real day part that is safe from the bite of a mosquito – and that’s because there are so many different species that can be flying around.

The most common health problems:
- Heartworm
- Yellow Fever
- Dengue Fever
- Malaria
- West Vile Virus
- Arboviral Encephalitis’s
Mosquitoes are going to be found around water. This doesn’t necessarily mean a lake or a river, but those areas usually involve larger groups of mosquitoes. They will find whatever water needed in order to reproduce. This can include a swimming pool, a flood in the backyard, or even a puddle on a sidewalk. This means that you have to be extremely cautious whenever you have a lot of standing water on your property because it can be a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Mosquitoes are important to the ecosystem, however. If they became extinct tomorrow, which is impossible, it would have a significantly adverse effect on the ecosystem. Much of this is because the larvae becomes filter feeders and are eaten by fish and various other animals in the water.

While they are an important component of the ecosystem, they are not directly needed for the survival of man and there is no reason to keep them around your property. There are billions of them and they are considered the deadliest insect on the planet. With such a bad reputation, you need to know how to avoid them and get rid of problems sooner rather than later.
HOW TO TREAT MOSQUITO PROBLEMS

You may see the mosquitoes flying around your home, but that’s not enough to treat the problem. You have to find the source. There is a breeding site somewhere on your property and if you can locate that, you can get the problem under control. Standing or stagnant water is where the female mosquitoes are going to go in order to lay their eggs. This can include catch basins, standing surface water from a septic system, or even a polluted stream.

Buckets, a clogged roof gutter, old discarded tires in the back yard and anything else may have collected a lot of rain water the last time it rained – and these become ideal locations for egg laying. Even a bird bath in the backyard can be the culprit. Your goal is to find the source of water that the mosquitoes are using and get rid of it so you don’t give them a place to breed.

The life cycle of a mosquito is only 14 days. Once they are unable to breed, they die off and the pest problem can go away sometimes on its own. The hardest thing is to deny them the water, especially if you get a lot of rain fall. This means you have to turn your front and backyard upside down looking for opportunities where water can gather.

SPRAWS

There are various types of sprays that can be used to kill the mosquitoes. Some of the sprays will provide a residual for mosquitoes that land on vegetation and brush areas and other that will kill mosquitoes that are in flight. There are also other types of sprays and lotions for personal protection.
CITRONELLA

Citronella is most commonly found in the form of a candle, but you can find it as a spray and even as a tiki-torch. These can be burned to work as a repellent but won’t actually kill the mosquitoes.

BUG ZAPPERS

You may want to consider a bug zapper, which can be installed in the backyard or anywhere that you spend time. The bright light and heat can attract the mosquitoes and they will be electrified. If you spend a lot of time outdoors, you may want to consider one of these so that you can get some peace from the bites that the female mosquitoes will inevitably bring. It won’t take care of all the mosquitoes, but it can do at least something.

It’s a good idea to talk with a pest control company and find out what is suggested so that you can get the mosquito problem under control. The key to your problems is to find the source of water that is being used for the breeding and getting rid of it. In some instances, you won’t be able to get rid of the water – such as if you live on a canal where they are breeding. This means that you will have to focus on ways to repel and kill them once they come onto your property.

While mosquitoes are bad news and they can reproduce quickly, there are relatively affordable ways that you can repel them so that you can enjoy being outside without being eaten alive by mosquitoes.
You may want to double up on measures, too. If you live in an area where it seems like mosquitoes are out all the time, you may need to work a little harder to get rid of them. Locate the water on your property and eliminate if possible. Then call a pest control company out to provide a treatment plan for your property. From there, you can also burn a citronella candle and hang a bug zapper. This should give you enough peace from the mosquitoes so that you can spend an evening outside without slapping your arm every few minutes to kill another one of the flying pests that are trying to get to your blood.

How to Prevent Problems

There are plenty of things you can do to prevent mosquito problems from occurring. Preventative should always be done, even if you don’t have a problem now. Mosquito populations are growing and you don’t want to give the insects a reason to settle onto your property.

1. Eliminate things on your property that can store water – tires, buckets, bottles, and even kids’ toys

2. Keep water in pools clean and drain when not using them

3. Any ditches and streams should be free from obstruction so that water flow is not hindered in any way

4. Cover boats or if they are small enough, store them upside down

5. Change the water in feeding troughs, fountains and bird baths weekly

6. Clean the gutters

7. Seal cesspools with a screened vent
When you can eliminate the water that is hanging around, you can eliminate the breeding ground for the mosquitoes and this is a big deal. You may be surprised by the small amount of water that a female mosquito can use to lay eggs, so don’t give her the opportunity to find anything in your yard because that’s going to lead to bigger problems for you to deal with.

You don’t want mosquitoes getting into the house, either. Be sure you have the proper screens for all your doors and windows. Weather-proofing your doors should be done and if there are issues, you can have a company come out or take on the DIY project. This ensures that you aren’t getting bitten while inside – and that your kids and pets are safe from them as well.

Your outdoor areas can be treated for mosquitoes on a regular basis. There are treatments that can be applied to shrubs and such to ensure that they do not find a resting place within your landscaping.

Get your neighbors to pitch in because it’s going to impact them as well. You can only do so much on your property. If your neighbors have a lot of water on their property due to an un-kept yard, it’s going to greatly affect you. Let them know about some of the preventative maintenance that can be done so that you and the whole neighborhood can team up on mosquitoes together.
It’s impossible for you to do everything on your own. If you can get them to stop breeding on your property, you have at least done something. When in doubt, call a pest control company to come out and let an expert take a look around your property. There are likely some areas that you have missed and these can be identified and taken care of.

Additionally, various treatments and repellents can be discussed with the pest control expert so that you can try and deter as many mosquitoes as possible. The sprays can be used throughout your landscaping as well as in the areas where you spend the most time.

Discuss the issues that you have been having and let a local pest control professional weigh in to provide some help. Mosquitoes are resilient and very hard to get rid of. Do as much preventative maintenance as you can and when you have done that and still have problems, it’s time to call in an exterminator to provide you with additional guidance. Only then can you work on getting rid of mosquitoes so you don’t have to worry about their painful bites and anything that they may be carrying that can get you and your family sick.
For More Information On MOSQUITOES
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