

# How to Control Asian Tiger Mosquitoes

The most effective method of controlling tiger mosquitoes is reducing or eliminating the breeding containers, which are the source of the problem. Draining or removal of water holding containers, even on a localized basis, will produce remarkable long-term reductions in mosquito annoyance. The list of breeding sites is extensive and includes any water holding containers, but the primary sites in residential areas include clogged rain gutters, tires, buckets, cans, bottles, boats, flower pots, bird baths, outdoor statuary, ornamental pools, plastic or canvas tarpaulins, children's toys, rain barrels, and pet food and water dishes.

1. Clean rain gutters to allow water to flow freely.
2. Remove old tires or drill drainage holes in tires used for playground equipment.
3. Store plastic wading pools inside or turn them upside down when not in use.
4. Turn over or remove clay pots and plastic containers.
5. Dispose of all empty beverage containers, plastic wrappers, discarded toys, etc.
6. Check for trapped water in plastic or canvas tarps used to cover boats, pools, etc. Arrange the tarp to drain the water.
7. Pump out bilges in boats. Turn canoes and small boats upside down for storage.
8. Replace water in bird baths at least twice a week.
9. Remove pet food and water dishes that are not being used.
10. Don't leave garbage can lids lying upside down. Be sure water does not collect in the bottom of garbage cans.
11. Flush water in the bottom of plant holders twice a week.
12. Fix dripping outside water faucets.
13. Turn wheelbarrows upside down when stored outside.
14. Check around construction sites or do-it-yourself improvements to ensure that proper backfilling and grading prevent drainage problems.
15. Check ornamental ponds, tree holes and water-holding low areas for mosquito larvae. Call the nearest Mosquito Control Office (see below) if you find, or suspect, mosquito larvae are present.
16. If ditches do not flow and contain stagnant water for one week or longer, they can produce large numbers of mosquitoes. Report such conditions to a Mosquito Control Office. Do not attempt to clear these ditches because they may be protected by wetland regulations.

Contact the *Mosquito Control Section of the Maryland Department of Agriculture* nearest you for additional assistance and advice.

*Maryland Department of Agriculture Mosquito Control Offices Annapolis (Headquarters) 410-841-5870 Central & Western Maryland 301-927-8357 Eastern Maryland 410-543-6626 Southern Maryland 301-373-4263*