

Mosquitos – in and around your home

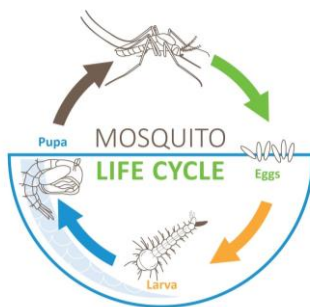
Mosquitos and COVID-19

Although mosquitos can spread some diseases, including Ross River, Zika, and Malaria, to date, there is no evidence to suggest that COVID-19 can be transmitted by mosquitos.

Mosquitos are insects that have immature stages, (larvae and pupa), which live in water. The larva is called a wriggler because of its quick movements which are used to escape danger, and the pupa is called a wobbler. Most mosquito species have immature stages that breathe air from the water surface. Therefore they commonly breed in mostly still water to avoid drowning.

When adults emerge from the water surface, they immediately start mating, and then they disperse to feed and find new breeding grounds.

Their mouth parts are specialised for piercing, sucking and injecting. Males feed on nectar only but females require protein from blood for egg development. Eggs are laid near or on water bodies of any size. The breeding cycle, from adult to egg to hatched adult, may take less than a week during ideal conditions.



What health problems can they cause?

Mosquitos occur around the world. Total eradication is not possible and mosquitos play an important role in the food chain.

However, they can pass on:

- Certain arbo-viruses (such as Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus)
- Some types of nematode worms (such as dog heart worm and filarial worms in humans)
- Malaria.

For some people the allergic reaction and irritation from bites may also be severe.

For more information visit [NSW Health Website](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/).

Around your home

To minimise the incidence of mosquitos around your home, make sure you:

- Chlorinate and circulate swimming pools regularly, pay particular attention to the skimmer box. Tip out children's pools frequently
- Change water in birdbaths and pet bowls at least weekly
- Keep water features circulating to drown larvae
- Stock garden ponds with larvivorous fish (tadpoles do not eat larvae)
- Check drains and roof gutters for blockages and clean them out regularly. Pits may be treated with chlorine/bleach
- Put insect netting on inlets to water tanks and containers or seal them
- Remove any water holding vessels around your property, or turn them upside down
- Keep lawns short and trim shrubs regularly as mosquitos shelter in these areas.
- Remove pot plant saucers or fill them with sand.



Prevent mosquito bites



Many mosquitos bite around dusk and dawn, but some can bite during day and night. The only way to prevent mosquito-borne disease is to avoid being bitten. Know how to prevent mosquito bites – cover up, repel, and clean up.

Cover up

Wear long, loose-fitting, light coloured clothing, covering as much of the body as you can. Mosquitos can bite through tight clothes like jeans. Make sure children are also appropriately covered up.

Repel

Use insect repellent containing DEET (diethyltoluamide) or picaridin and always follow instructions on the label.

Clean up

Stop mosquitos breeding in water pooling around your home or holiday accommodation by emptying water from containers.

For further information

Please contact Council's Environmental Health Officer or Customer Service if you have concerns.

Phone: 9330 6400

E-mail: mail@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au