

CONTROLLING MOSQUITOES AROUND YOUR HOME

CONTROL MOSQUITOES WITH THESE ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS

Polymer for filling tree holes

SoilMoist

Products containing *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *israelensis* (Bti)

Bonide Mosquito Beater WSP (water soluble pouches, formerly Plunks), Summit Mosquito Dunks, Summit Mosquito Bits, Vectobac

Product for making chloramine-treated water safe for fish

Kordon Pond NovAqua Plus

Insect growth regulator

Pre-Strike Mosquito Torpedo

Insect Repellents

With plant oils: Bite Blocker (soybean, coconut, and geranium oils), Repel Lemon Eucalyptus Insect Repellent

With IRD535: Avon Skin So Soft, Jungle Formula Outdoor & Camping Spray Insect Repellent

With DEET: OFF!

With picaridin: Sawyer Picaridin Insect Repellent

Mosquitoes are part of the aquatic ecosystem, providing food for fish and other aquatic creatures. For humans, however, it's a different story. In addition to their annoying buzzing and itchy bites, mosquitoes carry diseases that can be serious, even fatal, to humans, like West Nile virus. Getting rid of mosquitoes and making sure they *aren't breeding around your home* will help keep everyone safer—and keep you and your family from getting bitten.



Mosquito larvae in a pond

Pesticides are not very effective for mosquito control. Pesticide sprays, which reach relatively few mosquitoes, are more likely to harm helpful insects. Follow the tips in this fact sheet to have the biggest effect on reducing the number of mosquitoes in your area.

Do not treat street gutters or storm drains with pesticides. Storm drains are connected directly to the Bay, and pesticides cause serious problems for aquatic

There are many different kinds of mosquitoes. Some bite during the day, while others feed at night. Only adult female mosquitoes bite humans and other animals to feed on blood. Adult male mosquitoes feed on flower nectar. Young mosquitoes (larvae) live in water and feed on microorganisms and organic matter. Just about any area or container that holds water for more than a few days can produce a large crop of mosquitoes. Your bites may be coming from mosquitoes you are raising in your own backyard.

life. Call your mosquito and vector control district if you suspect mosquitoes are breeding in the storm drains or catch basins in your neighborhood. To find your local district, go to:

www.mvcac.org/resources/member-agencies

Choose eco-friendly products for your home and garden. Look for this symbol before you buy.



Don't Let Mosquitoes Breed Around Your Home



WWW.OURWATEROURWORLD.ORG

Common home and garden pesticides are found in stormwater runoff, treated wastewater, and in local waterways, sometimes at levels that can harm sensitive aquatic life. **Our Water Our World** is a joint effort by water pollution prevention agencies, participating retail stores, and pesticide distributors and manufacturers—working together to reduce the risks associated with pesticide use.

Our Water Our World fact sheets and store displays educate residents about less-toxic pest management. For the rest of the series of fact sheets, visit www.OurWaterOurWorld.org. Look for the **Less Toxic • Eco-friendly** tag next to less-toxic products in participating stores and nurseries. See the *Pesticides and Water Pollution* fact sheet for information on active ingredients in common pesticides that may cause water quality problems.

Pest control strategies and methods described in this publication are consistent with integrated pest management (IPM) concepts, and are based on scientific studies and tests in actual home and garden settings. Use suggested products according to label directions and dispose of unwanted or leftover pesticides at a household hazardous waste collection facility or event. For more information on pesticide disposal, visit www.earth911.com. No endorsement of specific brand name products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not mentioned.

For more information, contact:

Bio-Integral Resource Center (BIRC), 510.524.2567, www.birc.org

University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners in your area

University of California IPM website, www.ipm.ucdavis.edu