

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Mosquitoes - General

Mosquitoes are annoying insects which have the potential to carry diseases such as Dengue Fever, Ross River Virus, Barmah Forest Virus and Encephalitis.

Certain species of mosquitoes breed only in salt marsh waters. These are termed 'saltmarsh mosquitoes'. Some species of saltmarsh mosquito are predominantly nuisance mosquitoes, while others are responsible for the transmission of Ross River Fever.

Freshwater mosquitoes may breed in any low-lying area or drain (artificial or natural) containing water. The water may be clear and fresh or highly polluted. Certain species favour artificial water-filled containers (eg Dengue mosquito) while others prefer clean water or polluted water.

Similar to the saltmarsh mosquitoes, some freshwater mosquitoes are capable of transmitting diseases such as Ross River Virus, whereas others only cause nuisance. It is only the Dengue mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) which breeds in artificial water-filled containers that transmits Dengue Fever.



Dengue Fever

Dengue Fever is caused by a virus spread by a mosquito which occurs in tropical and subtropical areas of the world, including North Queensland. The dengue mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*, breeds around the house and generally bites you indoors during daylight hours.

The dengue mosquito does not breed in rivers, swamps, open drains, creeks, mangroves and flooded parks.

Get rid of dengue mosquito breeding sites

Dengue mosquitoes breed in containers that hold water. The dengue mosquito does not breed in rivers, swamps, open drains, creeks or mangroves. These mosquitoes do not like to travel far from mosquito breeding sites. The best form of control is to get rid of mosquito breeding sites around the home. Dengue mosquitoes breed in containers that hold water, such as:

- * buckets
- * tyres – discarded with no rims
- * tarpaulins and black plastic
- * pot plant bases
- * vases
- * boats
- * tin cans and plastic containers
- * roof guttering
- * rainwater tanks with damaged or missing screens
- * birdbaths
- * drain sumps
- * fallen palm fronds
- * coconut shells
- * striking containers (to grow plant cuttings)

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Residents should check in and around their homes once a week and:

- * throw out old containers that are not needed;
- * store containers in a dry place;
- * tip out containers that can hold water; and
- * clean out roof gutters.

Avoid being bitten

People should prevent mosquito bites during the day, particularly early morning and late afternoon. You should:

- * use personal insect [repellents](#);
- * use a plug-in zapper indoors;
- * use cockroach surface sprays indoors in dark places such as behind cupboards and under beds.
- * wear long, loose clothing outdoors; and
- * screen sleeping and living areas;

Rainwater tanks

Rainwater tanks in Queensland have the potential to create health risks. For example, they can become breeding sites for mosquitoes if not properly maintained. Below are three important steps to make sure your tank does not become a health risk for you, your family and your community.

1. New tanks

In Queensland, all new tanks must be fitted with mosquito-proof screens and/ or flap valves on every opening, including overflows.



2. Maintaining your tank

Maintaining your rainwater tank is an important responsibility. Maintenance is needed to maintain good water quality and prevent mosquito breeding.



3. Disposing of your tank

Rainwater tanks may become a major mosquito breeding site when they are no longer required or when they fall into disrepair. Tanks that are no longer required should be drained, cut up and removed to an approved waste disposal site.

