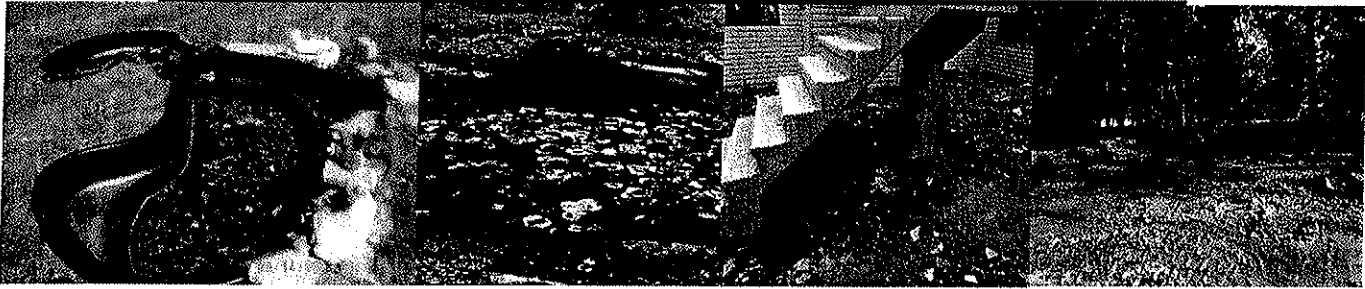


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MAY 29 2020

**RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO KEEP ORNAMENTAL PONDS,
FOUNTAINS AND POOR DRAINAGE AREAS FROM BREEDING
MOSQUITOES AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW**



If you have any ponding water on your property, whether it is a man-made ornamental pond, fountain or other decorative water feature, or ponding water due to construction or poor grading, you are required by the Rockland County Sanitary Code to maintain it to prevent mosquito breeding in order to avoid potential fines.

PONDS/FOUNTAINS/DECORATIVE WATER FEATURES:

1. **CIRCULATE/AERATE THE WATER** – If your pond/fountain is equipped with a re-circulation pump or aerator, have it running at all times to keep the water moving. Mosquitoes tend to avoid laying eggs on water that is constantly moving/flowing. Be aware that if the recirculation or aeration of the pond does not affect the entire area of water, such as along the pond's edges, then there is still potential for mosquitoes to lay eggs.
2. **STOCK WITH MOSQUITO-EATING FISH** – Fish are a good way to maintain your pond/fountain naturally. Fathead and “Rosy Red” minnows are mosquito-eating species available in most pet stores or bait shops.
3. **TREAT WITH A LARVICIDE** (for self-contained ponds ONLY) – Ponds can be treated with a larvicide (a product that kills mosquitoes before they emerge into adults). Mosquito larvicides can be purchased at most home improvement stores, garden centers, or on the Internet. **If you are going to use a pesticide on your property, the Rockland County Sanitary Code requires you to display a posting that includes the product label, date of treatment, amount of product used and the applicator's contact information. Please follow all label directions.**
4. **EMPTY/REMOVE YOUR POND** – If you are unable to maintain your pond/fountain using any of the above practices, you must keep it free of all water, fill it in, or remove it completely.

CONSTRUCTION/GRADING ISSUES:

1. **FILL OR GRADE THE AREA**- Any area that collects non-essential water on ground surface (depressions, tire ruts, holes, etc...) shall be filled or graded in a manner to eliminate standing water.

For more information, please visit

www.rocklandgov.com/departments/health/environmental-health

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THESE ARE JUST SUGGESTIONS. THESE PRACTICES ARE ONLY ACCEPTABLE IF THEY ARE EFFECTIVE. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE THAT THE ITEMS/AREAS OF CONCERN ARE NOT CAPABLE OF HOLDING WATER. IF ANY NON-ESSENTIAL WATER IS FOUND, IT IS A VIOLATION OF THE LAW!

To ensure compliance and avoid fines, or to report improper pond maintenance or other mosquito breeding concerns call 845-364-3173 or email: WNV@co.rockland.ny.us

 **Rockland County**

HEALTH

CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Dr. Robert L. Yeager Health Center

50 Sanatorium Road, Building D

Pomona, New York 10970

Phone: (845) 364-2608 Fax: (845) 364-2025



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



Get Mosquitoes to BUZZ OFF!

Mosquitoes are usually just thought of as an annoying pest, however occasionally they can spread disease, such as West Nile Virus or Zika Virus. While we have had cases of local mosquitoes spreading West Nile Virus, to date the only cases of Zika in Rockland are from those who have traveled to areas where the Zika Virus is spreading.

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in or near water, and their offspring "grow up" in water before emerging as adults that fly and bite. Many types of mosquitoes, including those that can spread disease, can lay their eggs in even the smallest amounts of standing water around the home such as in flowerpots, birdbaths, bottle caps, and discarded tires. Others lay their eggs in small ponds or other bodies of water. Most mosquitoes are active between dusk and dawn and will bite when the air is calm. Other mosquitoes, especially the types that breed in containers, will bite at any time of the day.

Reduce Mosquitoes around Your Home and Yard

- Check your property for ANY items that can hold water. Get rid of the items or empty the water out and scrub the inside of the item at least once a week.
- Drill drain holes in the bottoms of recycling containers, turn over wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use, and remove all discarded tires.
- If you have a swimming pool that is not in use, drain the water off the cover or treat this standing water with Mosquito Dunks®. The dunks are available free of charge at the Health Department, Building D, 50 Sanatorium Road in Pomona, from April 1 – October 31, Monday - Friday from 9 am to 4 pm, while supplies last. It is important to know the size of your pool when coming to pick up your dunks. In addition, residents can request free larvicide tablets by calling the New York State Department of Health at 1-888-364-4723.
- Tightly cover water storage containers (buckets, cisterns, rain barrels) so that mosquitoes cannot get inside to lay eggs. For containers without lids, use wire mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito.
- Use an outdoor flying insect spray where mosquitoes rest. Mosquitoes rest in dark, humid areas like under patio furniture, or under the carport or garage. When using insecticides, always follow label instructions.
- If you have a septic tank, repair cracks or gaps. Cover open vent or plumbing pipes. Use wire mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito.
- Make sure that roof gutters drain properly.
- Clear vegetation and debris from the edges of ponds and remove leaf debris from yards and gardens.

Protect Yourself from Mosquito Bites

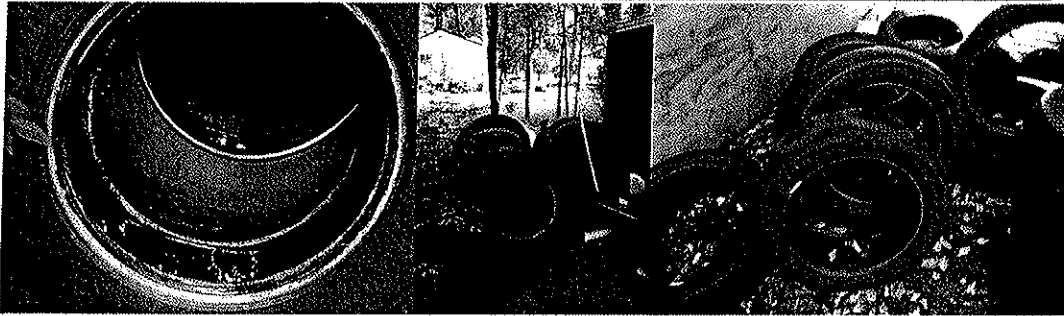
Most mosquitoes are not infected with disease-causing viruses. However, to reduce your risk of being bitten, take the following steps:

- Cover-up as completely as possible. Wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt when outdoors for long periods or when mosquitoes are more active. Most mosquitoes are active between dusk and dawn and will bite when the air is calm. Other mosquitoes, especially the types that breed in containers, will bite at any time of the day.
- Use mosquito repellent, which should always be applied according to label directions. Do not use repellent on babies younger than 2 months old. Do not use products containing oil of lemon eucalyptus or para-menthane-diol on children younger than 3 years old.
- Cover baby carriers with mosquito netting when outside.
- Stay indoors when mosquitoes are more active.
- Close doors and make sure all windows and doors have screens, and that the screens do not have rips, tears or holes.

To learn more, call the Health Department at 845-364-3173. To learn more about the Zika virus call the New York State Zika Information Line at 1-888-364-4723 or visit https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/zika_virus/.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO KEEP TIRES MOSQUITO
FREE AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW** *RL*



A tire can be one of the most prolific and overlooked man-made mosquito breeding habitats. New, used, or illegally dumped, if you have tires located on your property, you are required by the Rockland County Sanitary Code to store or maintain them so they are unable to hold water and breed mosquitoes. Below are several suggestions on how to stay in compliance and avoid getting a potential fine!

1. **RIMMED TIRES** – If tires are mounted on rims, they should not be capable of holding water and breeding mosquitoes. No further action needs to be taken.
2. **DISPOSE** – If there are tires on your property that you have no use for, simply get rid of them. You may need to contact your local highway department or transfer station for information on proper disposal. There are also junk pickup services that may be able to pickup the tires for you at a cost. Simply leaving the tires out on the street for pickup is not acceptable since they are still exposed to the elements and may not be picked up right away.
3. **STORE PROPERLY** – If you have unrimmed tires that you plan on keeping, you must store them in a solid, weather-tight structure or container (shed, garage, trailer, etc.). If this is not possible, tires can be neatly stacked outdoors and topped with a flat, solid object such as plywood or sheet metal. The covering should be weighted down for safety. This practice is considered acceptable as long as it keeps water from getting into the tires. According to the Sanitary Code, tires must be completely DRY when stored otherwise mosquitoes can still breed in them. Using a tarp or other loose covering to cover tires is not acceptable!
4. **PERFORATE** – If your unrimmed tires must remain outdoors for whatever reason (used as a weight, tire swing, etc.), an acceptable method is to drill holes in the sidewall and/or tread of the tire. This will allow accumulated water to drain out of the inside of the tire. **USE CAUTION:** This practice is acceptable only if it is effective. If a perforated tire is found holding water, it is still in **violation**.

For more information, please visit

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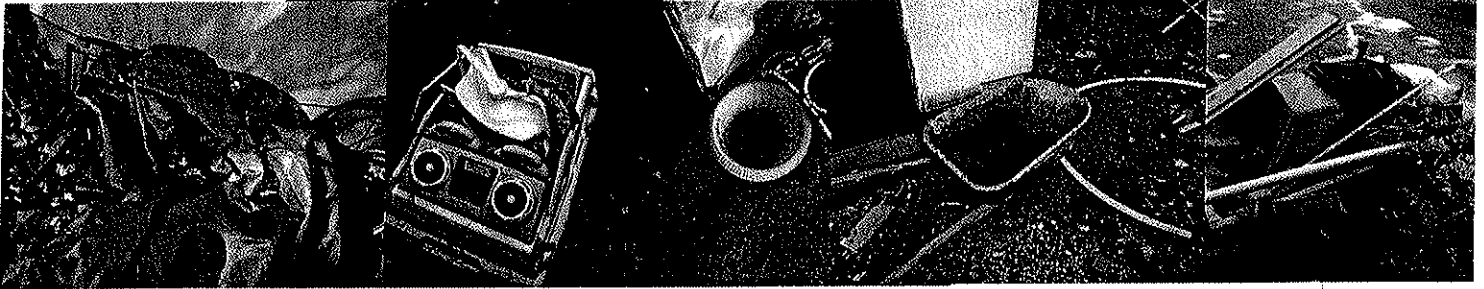
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To ensure compliance and avoid fines, or to report improper tire storage or other mosquito breeding concerns call 845-364-3173 or email: WNV@co.rockland.ny.us

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RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO KEEP ITEMS ON YOUR PROPERTY MOSQUITO FREE AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW



Many objects typically found on private or commercial properties can create commonly overlooked mosquito breeding habitats. Whether you have a back yard full of children's toys and lawn ornaments or tarps covering your firewood, you are required by the Rockland County Sanitary Code to store or maintain these object so they are unable to hold water. Below are several suggestions on how to stay in compliance and avoid getting a potential fine!

1. **CONTAINERS:** Objects such as wheelbarrows, buckets, garbage cans, boats and plastic toys should be kept sheltered from the elements and/or positioned in a way where they will not collect water
 - a. **TIP AND FLIP:** If the container cannot be stored in a shed, garage or similar, store them upside down or in a manner that they will not hold standing water.
 - b. **TREAT WITH A LARVICIDE:** Containers can be treated with a larvicide (a product that kills mosquitoes before they emerge into adults). Mosquito larvicides can be purchased at most home improvement stores, garden centers, or on the Internet. **If you are going to use a pesticide on your property, the Rockland County Sanitary Code requires you to display a posting that includes the product label, date of treatment, amount of product used and the applicator's contact information. Please follow all label directions.**
2. **TARPS:** If you need to use tarps, please make sure that they are pulled tight so you do not create pockets for water to collect. If there are any pockets, they will hold water, they will breed mosquitoes and you will be in violation of the law.

For more information, please visit
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