

Mosquito Control

in the Shire of Kalamunda

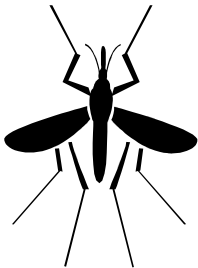


As we all know, mosquitoes are a nuisance to the community. Mosquito bites can be irritating and painful, particularly to infants and sensitive people. Some species also pose a health risk as they are able to transmit infections such as Ross River and Barmah Forest Virus. For these reasons it is important that we work together to help reduce mosquito breeding in the Shire of Kalamunda.

Shire Programs

The Shire's Health Service is active in controlling mosquitoes and is currently operating a number of different programs:

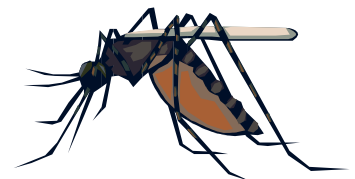
- Street Drain Baiting – All street drains within the Shire are treated over the summer months to prevent mosquito breeding;
- Monitoring and Treatment of Mosquito Larva – Known breeding sites are monitored on a regular basis and treated when required to prevent mosquitoes emerging. New breeding sites are continually being located;
- Adult Mosquito Monitoring – The Shire's Health Service has commenced a new program designed to increase our knowledge of adult mosquito populations. Permanent trapping sites within the Shire have been established to provide information such as the numbers and species of mosquitoes active in different areas. Monitoring programs help us to target efforts where they are most needed.



What Residents Can Do

No control program can eliminate all mosquitoes. The Shire's Health Service needs your help to stop mosquitoes breeding around the home. Mosquitoes cannot breed without water so ensuring your backyard does not contain potential breeding sites will help reduce numbers.

- Dispose of all containers which may hold rainwater including – old tyres, drums, buckets etc.
- Empty and refill pot plant trays, pet water bowls and bird baths at least once a week.
- Keep swimming pools chlorinated, filtered and free of dead leaves
- Keep ponds stocked with mosquito eating fish. Keep edges free of vegetation.
- Seal gaps around septic tank lids and leach drains. Make sure all vent pipes have insect proof mesh covers.
- Screen rainwater tanks with insect proof mesh including inlet, overflow and inspection pipes.
- Long lasting residual barrier sprays are available from your local pest control operator.



Self Protection

As always, self protection is important.

- When outdoors cover up with loose clothing.
- Always apply an insect repellent before going outdoors, especially at dusk and sunrise as this is when the mosquitoes are most active. Repellents containing DEET (diethyl toluamide) or Picardin are the most effective.
- Check insect screens around the home for damage.
- Make sure all doors self close and close securely.
- Always use insect proof screens or mosquito nets when camping.

If you have any queries regarding mosquitoes please feel free to contact the Shire's Health Service on 9257 9999.