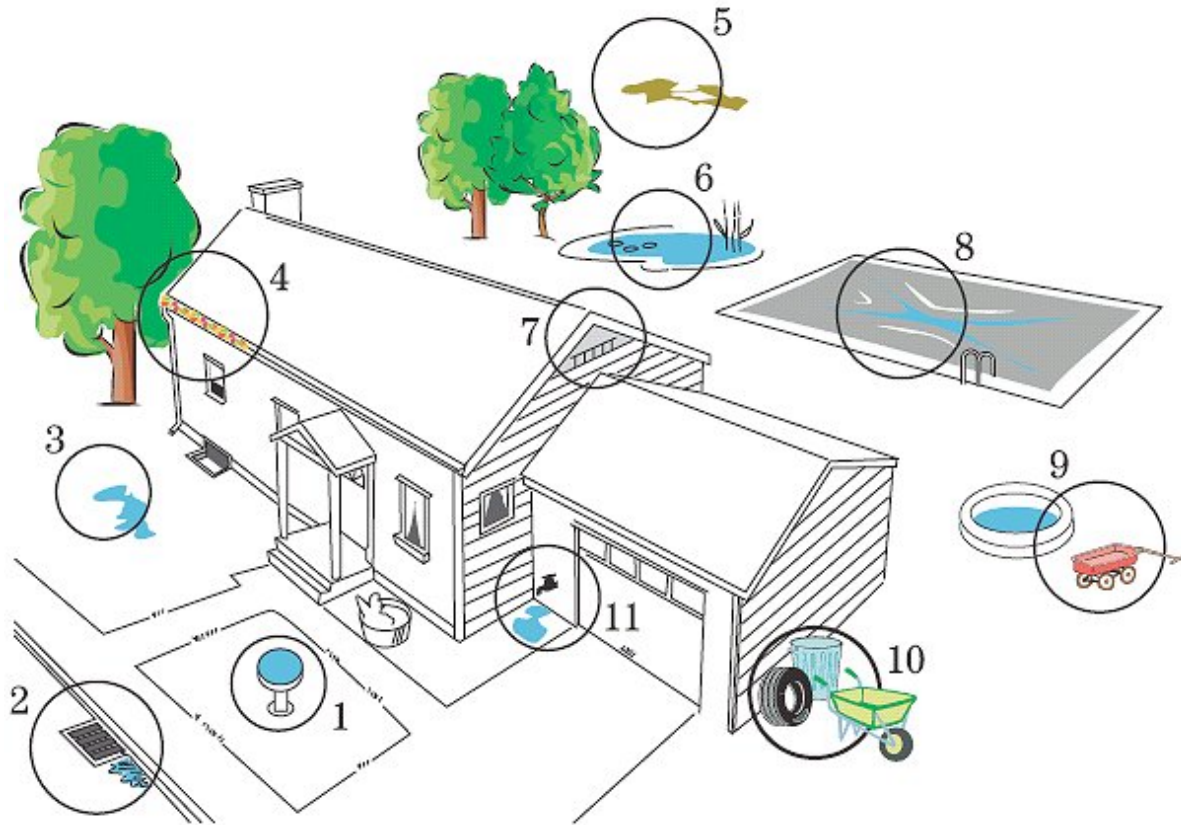


Reducing mosquito breeding grounds around your home

Being aware of the areas where mosquitoes like to breed can significantly reduce the risk of West Nile virus (WNV) infection. The diagram located below outlines areas around your home that are mosquito-friendly.



1. Stagnant water located in bird baths should be changed every other day.
2. Yard waste, such as lawn cuttings and raked leaves, which are present in gutters or storm drains prevent water from flowing and harbour perfect breeding conditions for mosquitoes.
3. Low-lying depressions in lawn areas where water can collect should be filled in.
4. Leaves and twigs can block roof gutters and eavestroughs and prevent proper water drainage.
5. Compost should be turned over frequently and areas of organic matter, which provide a food source for mosquito larvae, should be collected and recycled immediately.
6. Stagnant water of any kind is another breeding area for mosquitoes.
7. Open or broken window screens and attic vents offer perfect avenues for mosquitoes to make their way into your home. Window screens should fit snugly into the frame, vents should remain closed and for further prevention, windows should also be shut during the hours of dusk and dawn.
8. Pool covers often collect water and should be emptied right away. Wading pools need to also be turned over when they are not in use.
9. Toys and other objects around the yard should be placed in an area where they won't collect rainwater.
10. Mosquitoes are often attracted to containers of standing water in wheelbarrows or tires that are left outside. To avoid this, drill holes in the bottom of containers to allow water to flow out or turn over those items that are not in use.
11. Leaky faucets should be closed tightly as water build-up can create breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

It's important to clean up around your house because most mosquitoes may fly in a radius of about one to three kilometers from their breeding site.