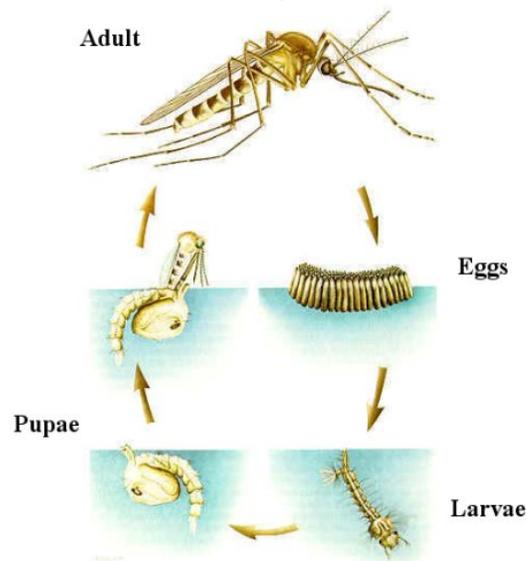


SWIMMING POOLS: PREVENT MOSQUITO BREEDING

Protect Your Family, Pets & Community

What is the life cycle of the mosquito?

Mosquitoes have four stages of development - egg, larva, pupa and adult. Some female mosquitoes species lay their eggs on the surface of permanent water (see figure to right) and since the water is constant, there are always eggs hatching and larvae developing. Other mosquito species deposit eggs on the ground or on the inside walls of containers, which are likely to be flooded. Rain creates standing water on the ground and raises the water level in containers and causes the eggs to hatch, starting the life cycle. Mosquitoes spend their larval and pupal stages in standing water. Mosquitoes take approximately one week to develop from egg to flying adult. Only the female adult mosquitoes bite. After emerging from the aquatic stages, adult mosquitoes mate. Females then seek a blood meal to obtain nutrients necessary for egg development.



Mosquitoes **MUST** develop in standing water

PROBLEM POOL CONDITIONS:

On Top of Pool Covers



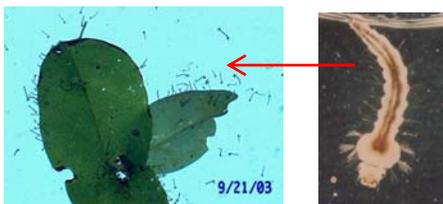
Water on top of cover will breed mosquitoes.
If the pool isn't completely sealed by the cover, water underneath a cover will also breed mosquitoes.

Unused Pools:



Unused pools will breed mosquitoes.
This includes early Spring, Summer and Fall (April through Nov.). Even if the pool is used during the summer it can breed before & after.

Fall - After Summer Use:



Sept 21st - Mosquito larvae collected from a pool that had been used until Labor Day 2003. Larvae were still present in late November.

IS DISEASE BREWING IN YOUR BACKYARD?

West Nile Fever, a disease caused by the mosquito-borne West Nile virus (WNV), was first recognized in the United States, in New York City and surrounding areas in late 1999. *Culex* mosquitoes are primarily responsible for transmitting West Nile virus among the bird population and one species, *Culex pipiens*, the Northern House Mosquito is commonly found breeding around homes, including in swimming pools.

Tips to stop mosquito breeding in your swimming pool:

- * Swimming pools that are disinfected and filtered: Pools do not breed mosquitoes when suitable for active swimming.
- * Before & after using your pool, prevent mosquito breeding:
 - The pool cover should be secured so that mosquitoes cannot access the water underneath.
 - Water will accumulate on top of the cover and should be completely drained regularly, at least once a week.
 - Apply insecticide products that are meant for use in pools and follow the label instructions. In hardware & pet stores, Mosquito Dunks (*B.t.i*) and Pre-Strike (methoprene) are two products available to the homeowner for this purpose.
- * If your pool will not be used again: Remove the pool altogether. In-ground pools can be filled in, taking care to follow proper procedures. Above ground pools should be dismantled and the components properly stored or discarded. The unused liner or cover, if left outside, will collect pockets of water and still breed mosquitoes.

REMEMBER:

Do not leave a swimming pool or pool cover uncared for, even for part of the year, because it will breed mosquitoes.

For More Information:

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