

About Mosquitoes

About 3000 species of Mosquitoes have been identified on a worldwide basis. Approximately 150 are known to exist in North America. Of these approximately 25 species are considered "human nuisance species".

Attracting, trapping and killing just one female mosquito at the start of the mosquito season can prevent the birth of up to 25,000 additional mosquitoes throughout the season.



The Mosquito Life-Span

Most adult mosquitoes have a life span of 2-4 weeks. Female mosquitoes usually live 2-4 weeks and lay up to 500 eggs during this span.

How Mosquitoes Populate Your Property

Most nuisance mosquito species travel in an area less than 1 acre. A good percentage of the mosquitoes, which populate your property, tend to spend their entire life-span living, breeding and feeding on your property. Salt marsh mosquitoes are known to travel greater distances often as a result of windy sea breezes. A SkeeterVac Mosquito Trap is designed to control the breeding cycle of mosquitoes from .5 to 1.2 acres of property, thus installing a SkeerVac system is an effective control solution for the mosquitoes who call your property their home.

Why mosquitoes are attracted to you

Scientists still don't fully understand the subtle chemistry of what attracts mosquitoes to humans. However, entomologists are certain that the following are mosquito attractants:

- Carbon dioxide and other chemicals in the breath that you exhale
- Chemicals your body emits
- Body heat
- Visual cues such as color, size and contrast
- Movement

The importance of water

All mosquitoes need water to complete their lifecycles. Some mosquito species lay their eggs directly on the surface of water. Others lay drought-resistant eggs into containers or depressions in the ground – then, when the area is flooded by rainfall or another water source, the eggs are able to hatch.

Mosquito activity in cold weather

Many mosquitoes are able to hibernate in cold winter months. Their development ceases, and they remain still and inactive. Once temperatures rise in the spring and summer, the hibernating mosquitoes and mosquito eggs become active again once temperature rise above 50°F on a constant basis.

What mosquitoes eat

Mosquitoes rely on sugar as their main source of energy. Both male and female mosquitoes feed on plant nectar, fruit juices, and liquids that ooze from plants.

Blood for reproduction

Females mosquitoes lay multiple batches of eggs and require a blood meal for every batch they lay. Male mosquitoes do not lay eggs – as a result, male mosquitoes don't require blood meals, and therefore, do not bite. Most mosquitoes die before they are able to bite and take a blood meal. In general, mosquitoes that do live to reproduce are only able to take one blood meal before they, too, are killed or die naturally.

Why mosquito bites hurt

Mosquito bites leave welts and itch because when females bite they salivate into the wound. Proteins in the saliva facilitate the taking of the blood meal by preventing the blood platelets from coagulating and by dilating blood vessels. The welts that appear after the mosquito leaves are not a reaction to the wound but an allergic reaction to the saliva injected to prevent clotting.

Controlling Mosquitoes

In addition to properly installing and using a SkeeterVac® mosquito exterminator, you can reduce mosquito breeding around your home significantly by reducing the amount of water that is stagnating on your property.

- Dispose of cans, plastic containers, pots, or similar water-holding containers that have accumulated on your property.
- Drill holes in the bottom of containers that you must leave out of doors – trash cans, recycling bins,
- Clean clogged roof gutters on an annual basis.
- Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use.
- Turn over wheelbarrows, empty planters, or children's toys
- Don't allow water to stagnate in birdbaths.
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools that are not being used. Don't forget that mosquitoes breed in the water that collects on swimming pool covers.
- Use landscaping features or drainage tools to eliminate standing water that collects in low spots on your property.

Mosquitoes & Disease

Infection by mosquito is very rare in the United States, but there are a number of diseases world-wide that are transmitted by mosquitoes:

- Malaria is a parasitic protozoan that infects the blood cells of humans and is transmitted from one human to the next by a certain type of mosquito.
- Encephalitis is a virus of the central nervous system that is passed from infected birds to humans by mosquitoes that bite both birds and humans.
- Yellow fever is a viral infection of monkeys that can either be transmitted from monkey to human or from human to human via mosquito bites in tropical areas of the world.
- West Nile Virus is carried by certain species of mosquitoes, causing flu-like symptoms in infected individuals. In rare cases, West Nile Virus has resulted in death due to brain swelling.

Mosquitoes CANNOT transmit AIDS, because the HIV virus that produces AIDS in humans does NOT develop in mosquitoes.

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