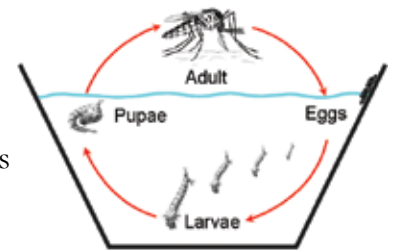


How to Prevent the Spread of the Mosquito that Causes Dengue

General information about *Aedes aegypti*

- The dengue mosquito lays its eggs on the walls of water-filled containers in the house and patio.
- The eggs hatch when submerged in water. Eggs can survive for months.
- Female mosquitoes lay dozens of eggs up to 5 times during their life time.
- The mosquito life cycle, from egg to larvae, pupae, and to an adult mosquito, takes 8 days and occurs in water. Adult mosquitoes live for one month.
- Adult mosquitoes “usually” rest indoors in dark areas (closets, under beds, behind curtains); only female mosquitoes bite humans.
- The dengue mosquito can fly several hundred yards looking for water-filled containers to lay their eggs.
- A few mosquitoes per household can produce large dengue outbreaks.
- The dengue mosquito does not lay eggs in ditches, drainages, canals, wetlands, rivers or lakes; pouring chlorine into these habitats is useless. Chlorine is harmful to aquatic life.

Mosquito life cycle



Common containers in which eggs develop into adult dengue mosquitoes:

Those that are filled with water by people

- Drums and water cisterns, 5 gallon buckets, small buckets, plants in water, decorative fountains, broken water meters, animal drinking bowls, portable pools (not in use), potted plants and bases, open or unsealed septic tanks, or septic tanks lacking vent pipe screen.



Those that are filled with rain water

- Discarded tires, bottles, pots and pans, broken appliances (toilets, washbasins, refrigerators, washing machines).
- Items left outside such as garbage cans, paint trays, tarps, 5 gallon buckets and their lids, toys and coolers.
- Boats and other vehicles that can hold rain water.



Control of larvae and pupae to avoid production of adult mosquitoes:

- Throw away, turn over, empty or store under a roof any container that may accumulate rain water.
- Always place a tight lid on containers used for water storage (buckets, drums).
- Verify that there are no larvae or pupae in stored water (empty the container, wash walls with a brush to remove eggs, rinse, and cover).
- Maintain running water in fountains, artificial lakes or estuaries. Place fish (guppies, betas) in ornamental fountains that are always filled with water.



- Empty ornamental fountains that are not in use.
- Clean animal drinking bowls everyday, taking care to wash away eggs.
- Ask the Water Authority to replace broken water-meters.
- Repair broken septic tanks and cover vent pipes with wire mesh.
- Protect boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water.
- Maintain swimming pools in good condition and appropriately chlorinated. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

Mosquito Control

- Use screens on doors and windows.
- Use patio insecticides such as Permethrin (pesticide and repellent) and Allethrin (candles and lanterns). Wear long sleeve shirts, long pants, socks and closed shoes to avoid mosquito bites at dusk and dawn especially.
- Use repellents containing DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide) or Picaridin on your clothing and exposed skin. Follow manufacturer's instructions and CDC recommendations. (www.cdc.gov)

