

The mosquito is a pest that is not only an irritating, biting insect, they also spread disease. While taking blood they can pass on disease causing parasites and viruses. Common diseases transmitted by mosquitoes in South Australia include Ross River and Murray Valley Encephalitis. The easiest way to control mosquitoes is to stop them breeding.

## Eliminating Breeding Sites

- Rainwater tanks can be a potential source of mosquito breeding. Ensure that any tops, lids, covers and inlet pipes are close fitting to exclude mosquitoes. Screen mesh should be fitted to the outlet end of the overflow pipe and the water inlets. A small quantity of domestic kerosene or paraffin may be added to the water surface as a larvicide. This film will be lost by evaporation or when the tank overflows and should be replaced every 3-4 weeks.
- Cover, remove or dispose of all items situated outside that can hold water.
- Apply kerosene or liquid paraffin to the surface of unscreened containers of water and collections of water that cannot otherwise be effectively dealt with. This prevents the larvae from breathing and kills them.
- Keep roof guttering in good repair and regularly remove leaves and debris so that pools of water do not form. Cut back and trim trees to prevent leaves and debris from blocking roof guttering.
- Keep fish ponds and ornamental ponds stocked with fish. Goldfish and native fish are recommended. Keep the side of ponds clear from water weeds so that the fish can get at the larvae.
- Keep swimming pools well chlorinated and filtered. Empty small wading pools after use. Drain and cover unused swimming pools using an appropriate cover to avoid rain water collection.
- Empty all pot plant drip trays at least once a week, or alternatively fill with sand.

- Overturn or remove the drain plug from boats, canoes and dinghies to stop water from pooling.

## Self Protection

- Wear loose fitting, light coloured clothing covering up as much of the body as possible (mosquitoes can bite through tight fitting clothes).
- Use insect repellents that contain DEET (Diethyl toluamide) or Picaridin to all exposed areas of the skin. Use in accordance with the manufacturers directions.
- Insect sprays, surface sprays, mosquito coils and citronella candles can be used to kill or repel mosquitoes.
- Avoid outdoor activities one to two hours after sunset and again at dawn as mosquitoes are most active at these times.
- Fit 1mm insect screens to all windows and openings of the house and ensure they are in good condition.
- Cover sleep and rest areas with mosquito nets.