

HELP PROTECT THE HEALTH OF YOUR NEIGHBORS!

MOSQUITO CONTROL OUTDOOR TIRE STORAGE AREAS

Problem

Tires stored in unprotected areas outdoors collect water and provide excellent conditions for the breeding of mosquitoes. Mosquitoes are well-known carriers of various viral infections including West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, St. Louis Encephalitis, and other serious diseases. Recent research findings show that water-filled tires are an excellent incubator for mosquito eggs and results in hatching of mosquitoes up to 100 times faster than normal mosquito breeding sites. Two key reasons for this fast rate are:

- Tires retain the water longer due to the shape of the tire and that some inside areas of the tire are shaded continuously; and,
- The tire will retain heat for long periods of time which speeds up the hatching process and growth of the larvae.

Control Methods

The best control method is to keep stored tires dry at all times. Help protect the health of your neighbors by using the following methods to keep tires dry:

- ❖ Store indoors
- ❖ Use enclosed trailers
- ❖ Placing tarps on existing outdoor storage piles
- ❖ Transport tires for recycling routinely

What do I do if I have an accumulation of tires stored unprotected outdoors?

1. Inspect the tire casings for the presence of water.
2. Check any water found for mosquito larvae.

You will be able to see the larvae swimming in the water with the naked eye.

If you find larvae in the tire casings, implement one, or more, of the following options:

- ❖ For new or used tires, empty the water from the casings (by scooping or pumping) and store indoor or other area protected from rainfall.
- ❖ For small accumulations of scrap tires, empty water from the casings and then store them in a dry, protected area until they are picked up for recycling.
- ❖ For larger accumulations of scrap tires, arrange to have them picked up and recycled as soon as possible.
- ❖ For larger accumulations of scrap tires, it may be necessary to use chemical or biological control methods (see below) until such time the scrap tires are removed for recycling.

Chemical and Biological Controls

There are many chemicals and biological methods on the market for mosquito control. There are safety and environmental hazards to consider when using chemical or biological control methods. Consult with your local health department and/or county extension office prior to initiating mosquito control using chemical or biological methods. **Caution:** Do not use spray application procedures on windy days. Do not let spray drift off of your property.

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