

# Know the FACTS

## Mosquito Bite Prevention & Control

Mosquitoes can carry diseases that are spread through bites. The best way to prevent them is by avoiding peak mosquito activity, eliminating breeding areas and preparing before outdoor activities or travel.

### Wear protective clothing outside

- Choose long sleeves and pants in light colors.
- Treat clothing with permethrin or another EPA-registered repellent (follow label directions).



### Prevent mosquito bites with repellents

Use EPA-registered insect repellents with one of the following active ingredients:

- DEET
- Picaridin (also called KBR 3023 or icaridin)
- IR3535
- Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (OLE) – plant-derived
- Para-menthane-diol (PMD)
- 2-undecanone – plant-derived

Always follow label instructions when applying repellent. If using sunscreen, apply it first, followed by repellent.

### Control mosquitoes around the home

**Drain:** Eliminate standing water on your property. Water may collect in pools, birdbaths, toys and playsets, open containers, wheelbarrows, old tires, gutters and other vessels. Drain, sanitize, fill or cover these items as appropriate.

**Dunk:** Buy larvicide or "dunks" to kill mosquito larvae in standing water that cannot be drained. These chemicals or natural bacteria are environmentally safe and effectively kill mosquitoes before they become adults that fly and bite. Available in liquid, granules or briquets, dunks are inexpensive and can be purchased in general merchandise stores, home-improvement stores and hardware stores.

### Additional measures

- Repair holes in window screens and screen doors to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.
- When sleeping outdoors in an unscreened structure, use a mosquito net.
- Though mosquito bites can occur any time of day, mosquitoes are most active during early morning, late afternoon, and evening. During peak times, limit outdoor activity for yourself and for your pets.



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