

Ways to Control Mosquitoes (without toxic chemicals!)

Sault Tribe Environment Dept

If you're concerned about the health impacts of the chemicals we encounter in daily life, you're not alone. Then again, biting insects can drive a person to the chemical aisle when they're as bad as they've been this spring. What to do??

There isn't one single product or method to control mosquitoes "organically," but if you employ several different tactics and learn by trial and error chances are the end result will be satisfactory. The best you can do is formulate a plan that fits with your unique situation. Take a look at this list and pick a variety of techniques to try, and you may find you can live with the results and avoid the chemicals.

Inexpensive Home Remedies:

- ✓ Citronella (candles, plants, incense coils)
- ✓ Different kinds of natural oils (lavender, lemon eucalyptus, citronella)
- ✓ Keep cool (mosquitoes are attracted to body heat)
- ✓ Wear lightweight clothing, cover as much exposed skin as possible, use protective netting and hat when gardening
- ✓ Rub lemon balm leaves (a herb you can find at garden centers) on exposed skin
- ✓ Use a fly swatter and patience
- ✓ Homemade mosquito trap (instructions on next page)

Outside Mosquito Control:

- ✓ Replace regular incandescents with LED lights, yellow bug lights or sodium lamps near doors, windows, and porches
- ✓ Check your property and get rid of as much standing water as possible (low areas, old tires and debris, and any other areas that water tends to collect)
- ✓ Clean bird baths regularly
- ✓ Sprinkle garlic powder in concentrated breeding areas
- ✓ If you have a pond, keep it clear of weeds and decaying organic matter and use Koi (goldfish) to eat mosquito eggs and larvae
- ✓ BTI mosquito dunks (kills mosquito and larvae with little effect on other organisms and the environment) can be purchased online or at hardware stores and garden centers
- ✓ Keep grass cut - makes it easier to spot breeding areas

Mosquito Control In Sleeping Areas:

- ✓ Frequently change and launder your sheets
- ✓ Have larger items dry cleaned
- ✓ Vacuum and swab regularly
- ✓ Use odorless repellent near the bed (scented spray may inhibit sleep)
- ✓ Concentrated lemon juice may be used as a deterrent as well as planting garlic around the house

Protection for Babies and Young Children:

- ✓ Cover skin, tuck all clothing in
- ✓ Put light repellent on clothes, not skin
- ✓ All-natural repellents available from health food stores
- ✓ Netting over their crib
- ✓ Try to keep kids inside at dawn and dusk if possible

Make this homemade mosquito trap for indoor or outdoor use

You can make this as a project with the kids, it's cheap and fun to do. Supervise cutting, so they don't get hurt, and watch the cut edges of the bottle – they can be sharp.

Required items for creating mosquito trap:

- Empty 2 liter pop bottle
- ¼ cup of brown sugar
- 1g of yeast (bread yeast or other, doesn't matter)
- 1 cup hot water

Steps to Create Mosquito Trap:

- Cut the pop bottle in half around the middle
- Mix brown sugar and hot water, let cool then pour into bottom half of bottle
- Add yeast which reacts with brown sugar creating CO₂ (attracts mosquitoes)
- Place top half of bottle upside down in lower part and secure with tape
- Cover bottom half with something black and leave top part uncovered
- Place in area of high concentration of mosquitoes
- For best results change solution every 1-2 weeks

The mosquitoes fly in, but they can't get back out!

