

# Bureau of Mosquito Control

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News Alert

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The Mosquito Control Bureau is responsible for controlling the mosquito population in Union County. The bureau inspects, constructs, and maintains drainage ditches to eliminate standing water where mosquitoes breed.

In an effort to curb the insects' activity, the Bureau of Mosquito Control sprays in various areas within Union County on both a scheduled and 'as-needed' basis.

Persons who wish to minimize direct exposure to pesticides, whether from Mosquito Control activities or from their personal use, can take the following standard precautions:

- When possible, stay indoors when pesticides are in use outdoors.
- Close air conditioner vents or choose the "re-circulate" function.
- Remove outdoor toys, or wash them before using again.
- Remove laundry from clotheslines, or wash it.
- Wash all produce thoroughly with water.

Mosquitoes breed in stagnant water, and a single female needs only a small amount of water to lay hundreds of eggs. To help keep the mosquito population down, residents and business owners can check their property for any places where small amounts of water can collect such as empty flower pots, pool covers, and children's toys.

In particular, roof gutters should be checked for sagging or blocked areas where water can collect. Litter and debris, especially discarded tires, are other favorite breeding sites.

The following standard precautions help to reduce the risk of mosquito bites:

- When possible, limit time outdoors between dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active.
- Weather permitting, wear long and light-colored clothing.
- Use a repellent approved for use on skin and clothing, and to follow all instructions on the label carefully. Additional guidance on mosquito repellents is available from [the Centers for Disease Control](#).
- Use window screens and check them periodically for tears or holes.

Mosquito infestations can be reported by calling the Union County Mosquito Hotline at 908-654-9834 during business hours. County inspectors will examine the property and provide guidance on eliminating breeding sites. If needed, the inspectors will also survey the surrounding area.

For additional information on the West Nile virus visit the CDC's website, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).