



KANAWHA-CHARLESTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

PUTNAM COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Michael R. Brumage, MD, MPH, FACP
Executive Director/Health Officer

Dealing with Mosquitoes Related to Flood Waters

Floods often lead to increased mosquito numbers which can lead to increased numbers of bites and potential for increases in mosquito-borne diseases. Standing water from heavy rainfall and flooding provides perfect conditions for mosquito breeding. You need to play your part and help reduce the number of potential breeding sites by taking the following actions in and around your house. During flood events, the floodwater mosquitoes can become extremely abundant and annoying.

Actions to take

When cleaning up your house and yard following a flood, get rid of potential mosquito breeding sites to help prevent mosquito-borne diseases.

- Remove stagnant pools of water around your house and yard. This may involve clearing debris from ditches, cutting small channels to help pooling water drain, or filling in holes and vehicle wheel ruts.
- Remove flood-water deposited debris on and around your property. While a lot of this debris may be partially buried, it often contains enough water to breed large numbers of mosquitoes. In addition to pooled water, rain or floodwater may have collected in containers around your yard, so make sure you tip them out and store them in a dry place, or throw them away.

Tip and toss water found in:

- Flower pot trays
- Planter boxes
- Kiddie pools
- Sandbox and yard toys
- Wheel barrows
- Watering cans
- Boat covers

Remove trash or junk from yard that can hold water:

- Abandoned tires
- Trash / Trash cans
- Unused lawn furniture or grills
- Cans
- Bottles
- Food containers
- Lids

Check gutters and drain tubes (especially ridged tubing)

Treat rain barrels with a larvicide from hardware store or nursery

Avoid being bitten

Because the removal of or treatment of standing water will be nearly impossible in many areas, avoiding mosquitoes is difficult, but a priority.

1. Repair defective insect screens.
2. Wear insect repellent (a low concentration of DEET) whenever mosquitoes are present wear long, loose, light-colored clothing
3. Use flying insect spray or mosquito repellent coils according to the label

For additional help and information on mosquito control, call the Environmental Health Services in Kanawha County at 304-348-8050 and in Putnam County at 304-757-2541

Kanawha-Charleston

108 Lee Street, East, Charleston, WV 25301

Phone: 304.348.8050

Fax: 304.348.6821

Putnam County

11878 Winfield Road, Winfield, WV 25213

Phone: 304.757.2541

Fax: 304.757.7287

