

Dead Birds

Reporting Of Dead Birds

The Macon County Health Department (MCHD) maintains a log of “dead bird calls” May through October. Please report dead birds that have **no physical signs of trauma** to the MCHD by calling (217) 423-6988 ext: 1134.

Collecting Dead Birds

The MCHD is limited on the number and type of birds that may be collected.*

Only blue jays, crows, and robins in good condition will be collected. Birds that are collected must be “freshly expired.” (Birds that are missing eyes or have bugs crawling on them are too decayed for testing).

**Please note that birds are transported to another county for testing. There may be times it is not feasible to collect a specimen.*

Disposing of Dead Birds

You cannot get West Nile Virus from a bird. The disease is spread by mosquitoes. Please **do not** bring dead birds to the MCHD.

If the bird you find is not a good testing sample, you may dispose of it by placing it in a plastic bag. While disposing of the bird, use gloves, a shovel or inverted plastic bag on your hand to pick it up, and then deposit it in the garbage. Dead animals should not be picked up with your bare hands.

More Information

For more information on safe repellent use, visit the CDC West Nile Virus website at cdc.gov/westnile



Public Health
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Macon County
Health Department

1221 E. Condit St.
Decatur, Illinois 62521

(217) 423-6988

www.maconcountyhealth.org
livewell@maconcountyhealth.org

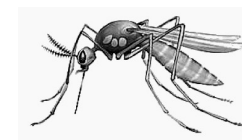


Macon County Health Department



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**We Need Your Help
In Controlling
West Nile Virus**



**Prevent Mosquito Breeding
Prevent Mosquito Bites**

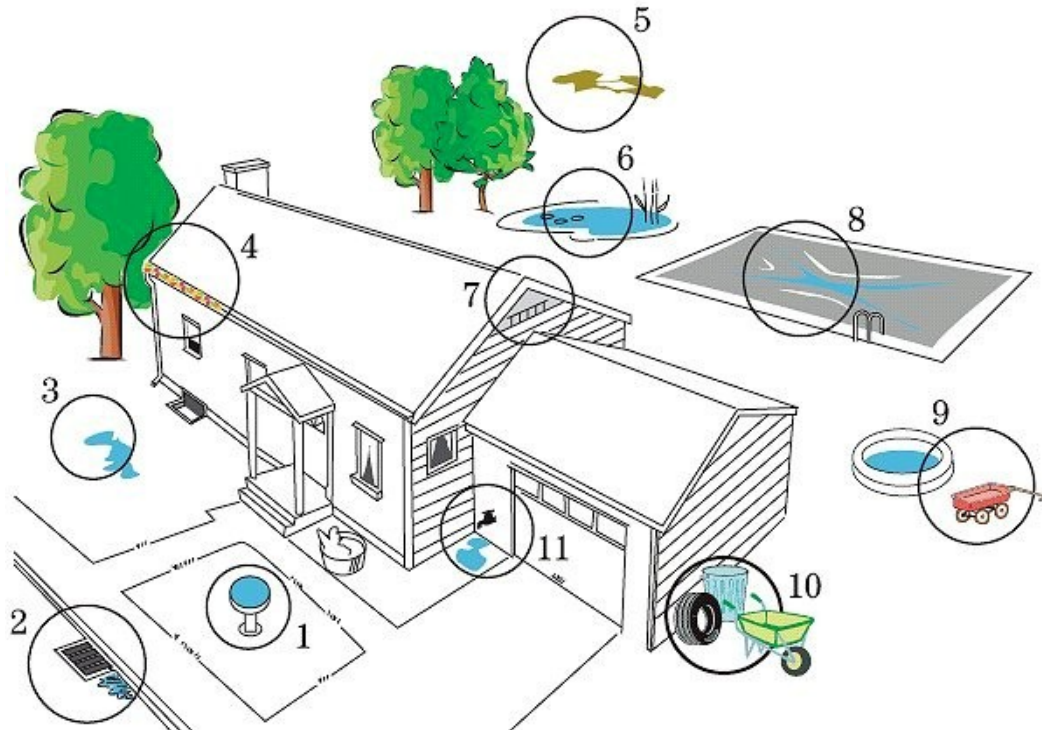
Prevent Mosquito Breeding and Eliminate Breeding Sites

Mosquito larvae or “wrigglers” must live in still water for five or more days to complete their growth cycle before becoming adult mosquitoes capable of transmitting disease. The number of mosquitoes in an area can often be reduced by removing sources of standing water.

Here's what you can do at home to prevent mosquito breeding:

- Discard old tires, buckets, drums, or any water holding containers
- Keep roof gutters and downspouts clear of debris
- Keep trash containers covered

- Empty plastic wading pools at least once a week and store indoor when not in use
- Drain unused swimming pools
- Fill in tree rot holes and hollow stumps that hold water
- Change the water in bird baths, plant drain trays, and urns at least once a week
- Store boats upside down or drain rainwater weekly



Prevent Mosquito Bites

Mosquito bites cause itching and irritation. Scratching them may result in infection sores.



Here's what you can do to prevent mosquito bites:

- Limit outdoor activity at dusk
- Wear light-colored clothing that minimizes exposed skin and provides some protection from mosquito bites
- Make sure door and window screens fit tightly and all holes are repaired
- Use mosquito repellents and always follow label instructions
- Follow age repellent recommendations; children should use repellents containing 10-30% DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide); adults should use repellents containing 20-25% DEET; repellent **should not** be used on children younger than 2 months
- Apply repellent to clothing and avoid applying it to bare skin whenever possible
- Use care when applying repellent to children; do not put it on their hands and avoid their mouths and eyes