

HOME AND GARDEN MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

West Nile virus is a disease that can be transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. The virus is carried long distances by infected birds and then spread locally by mosquitoes that bite these birds. Drought conditions may make it worse since birds and mosquitoes will share the same few watering holes, even in backyards. Mosquitoes need still water to lay their eggs, which develop in 7 to 10 days. Eliminate standing water weekly to keep many mosquitoes from breeding in the first place.

It is very rare to catch the virus, and most infected people will not even get sick or will only experience mild flu-like symptoms. However, West Nile virus can be fatal especially to people over 50 years of age. So protect yourself from mosquito bites before doing any outdoor maintenance and while enjoying outdoor activities. *Visit www.fightthebitecolorado.com for more information.*

| become ill and do not spread the virus. Keep animal areas dry. Keep food and water bowls clean. A vaccine is available for horses. Birdbaths Clean or hose out birdbaths weekly. BTI A natural bacteria that kills mosquito and fly larvae yet is non-toxic to animals when used properly. Kills larvae developing in water. (See dunks below.) Building material Unused pipe should be kept inside or turned over so that no water accumulates. Chainlink fence Cover chainlink fence pasts with metal or plastic caps since they are hollow pipes Clothing Wear long sleeved shirts and long pants when working around mosquito infested areas. Containers Cover containers or turn upside down so that they do not hold water including: ashtrays, boxes, buckets, cans, cups, jars and pots. Dead birds Pick up dead birds with a shovel or gloves. Double bag in plastic and dispose in trash. Dead birds should not be handled directly in order to avoid exposure to the virus. Wash your hands thoroughly afterwards. DEET The active ingredient in insect repellent. A Lighting Check garden lights and dirinste tops of fixtures and from inside floodlights. Check garden lights and dirinate water from tops of fixtures and from inside floodlights. Daylordan fights and firm insed floodlights. Drill drainage holes in tire swings and playground equipment that holds water. Stock with mosquito eating fish. Use mosquito dunks or BTI in ponds and larger bodies of water. Follow instructions for safe use. Ponds Stock with mosquie eating fish. Use mosquito eating fish. Use mosquito wanter. Gunks or BTI in ponds and larger bodies of water. Follow instructions for safe use. Ponds Playground equipment that holds water. Ponds Fix in mosquito eating fish. Use mosquito and fly lanks or BTI in ponds and larger bodies of water. Follow instructions for safe use. Potted plants Cover distribution of play lanks and bush glantaring playes. Pools/S |
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| 10% concentration is recommended for kids. Tool sheds Keep shed roofs maintained and eliminate |
| Drains Keep outdoor drains flowing freely. water around foundation. |
| Dripping water Fix leaky faucets, air conditioners and hoses. Tires Properly dispose of old tires. Drill drainage |
| Drought Drought conditions may help spread the holes in tires used in retaining walls and in |
| virus since birds and mosquitoes share the landscaping. |
| same few water sources, even in yards. Trash cans Keep trash cans covered. Remove buckets |
| Dumpsters Keep dumpsters covered, and remove any and containers from around trash areas. |
| water inside and under dumpster. Trees Eliminate water from dead tree stumps and |
| Dunks are donut-sized pellets that that kill hollow areas of live trees. Fill cavities with |
| mosquito larvae but are non-toxic to animals. sand and flush weekly with a hose. |
| They dissolve slowly in water. Available at Trash Remove anything that can hold water |
| hardware and garden stores. (See BTI above.) including cans, cups, tin foil, plastic and paper |
| Flat roofs Inspect weekly to remove any puddles. Fix since mosquito larvae can grow. |
| leaks from air conditioners and pipes. Keep Umbrellas Table umbrella and basketball bases often are |
| raingutters clear of debris and flowing freely. filled with water. Cap tightly, seal with duct |
| Irrigation Do not overwater. Eliminate any areas of tape or fill with sand and cover tightly. |
| excess standing water weekly. Weeds Remove weeds, especially around areas close |
| Landscaping Remove plastic sheeting under bark or rock to water (by byrd at testsforge). |
| and replace with landscape fabric that Wheelbarrows Store wheelbarrows vertically or turned over to |
| prevents weeds yet allows water through. prevent water accumulation. |