

REDUCE THE RISK OF WEST NILE VIRUS

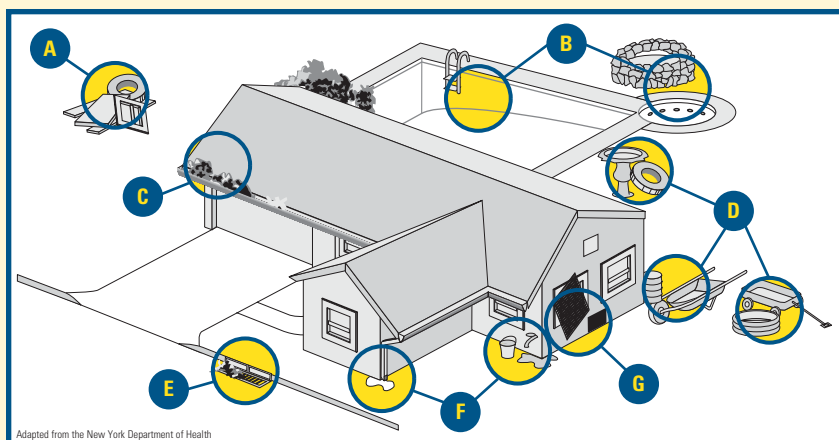
Mosquitoes can transmit West Nile Virus (WNV) from birds to humans. In some people, WNV can lead to serious illness.

You can help reduce the risk of WNV by eliminating standing water around your home.

If you go to an area where there are a large number of mosquitoes, protect yourself by wearing a long-sleeved shirt and long pants and by using mosquito repellent on exposed skin.

Reduce mosquito breeding areas around your home

You can help reduce the risk of West Nile Virus. Eliminate stagnant water where mosquitoes lay their eggs. Mosquito larvae can develop in water that has been standing for more than four days. Follow these tips around your home.



Adapted from the New York Department of Health

- A** **Keep your yard clean:** Uncovered garbage containers and junk piles collect water in which mosquitoes can breed.
- B** **Always inspect swimming or wading pools and ponds:** Poorly maintained pools and swimming pools can be breeding sites for mosquitoes.
- C** **Clean out eaves, gutters and drains:** Clogged gutters will accumulate water and create a place for mosquitoes to breed. Check flat roofs frequently for standing water.
- D** **Eliminate stagnant water:** Clean up and empty water in toys, birdbaths, tires, flowerpots, wheel barrows, and other garden objects where mosquitoes can breed.
- E** **Maintain yards and lawns:** Fill in low depressions in lawn areas. Eliminate standing water in gutters or storm drains to prevent small ponds. Install screens over catch basins. Turn compost over frequently.
- F** **Fix faucets and hoses:** Repair any leaks to faucets and hoses to prevent possible breeding sites. Prevent water from pooling around downspouts and air conditioners.
- G** **Repair window screens and screen doors:** Crawl spaces, attic vents, and broken screens allow mosquitoes to enter your home. If you don't have screens, try to keep windows closed between dusk and dawn.

For more information call **416-338-7600** or visit our Web site at www.toronto.ca/health.