



WEST VALLEY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL



The Valley Buzz!

Mosquito Season is Approaching Fast!

The weather is warming and that means mosquitoes will be showing up soon! Now is a great time to run a preventative checklist around your house to keep those critters from finding places to lay eggs. You can start with potted plants. Mosquitoes, especially *Aedes*, love a small hidden area like plant saucers to lay eggs in! Add some aquarium gravel to the saucer to keep mosquitoes out!

Next, check around the outside of the home for anything that might be holding water. Items like used tires, open trash cans, drink cans, children's toys should be dumped out and/or removed and leaky hose bibs and sprinklers should be fixed. Any rain gutters should also be checked and cleaned (ever seen that yucky muck in a clogged gutter? Skeeters love that stuff!).

Then, check your window and door screens for any tears or holes that may allow mosquitoes in (just a miniscule tear may be enough!) and get them repaired or replaced. Keeping doors, including garage doors, closed as often as possible will also help keep mosquitoes from entering the home. Visit our website for a more complete checklist and more information! Of course, if you want a professional "vector detector" call us! Our State Certified Technicians can find those mosquitoes hiding in your yard.



Left: plant saucer filled with water Right: plant saucer filled with gravel

Larval Mouths, or Why Do They Love Dirty Water?

Mosquitoes are experts at what they do – mainly the way they sneakily bite us and whiz away with our unintended blood donation! But another huge part of their life revolves around stagnant, dirty water.

Why would anything want to put their kids in that kind of water?! Well, it turns out their "baby bodies" are perfectly adapted to that kind of place. Their heads are one of the most interesting features of their larval forms, with big eyespots that sense movement, light and shadows, but their bushy mouth brushes are truly unique!

Larval mosquitoes use their mouth brushes not to sweep away debris, but to sweep it into their mouths! They brush in bacteria, algae and other tiny things that thrive in that dirty water, making them big and strong! This is why we stress the importance of getting rid of those standing water sources, if you can remove their food source, you can drastically reduce adult mosquitoes in your yard.



Right: Close up of mouth bristles (Arrow) Left: Larvae in water (head points down)

Concerts in the Park Have Begun!

We got to rock out with our Ontario residents Wednesday the 28th. We talked about mosquitoes, gave out repellents, and listened to some cool tunes! We will be out every Wednesday in Ontario, and we will also be visiting Chino Hills when their concerts begin. So if you want to talk bugs and tunes, come out and say hey!

Ontario Concert Schedule - [Special Events | City of Ontario, California](#)

Chino Hills Concert Schedule - [Concerts in the Park | Chino Hills, CA - Official Website](#)



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