



WEST VALLEY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL



The Valley Buzz!

Disease Update

The week of August 17th was our first detection of West Nile virus from one site in Ontario. Detecting virus in mosquitoes this late in the year is a good sign that our residents and the District's efforts are working! This is the 3rd longest time in 21 years that the District has gone until a virus detection in mosquitoes.

In 2023 by this time, we had 70 positive samples, and in 2024 we had 59. We have documented lower native and invasive mosquito numbers this year indicating our Integrated Pest Management strategies are working, in which our residents play an integral part.

Continue dumping out standing water, checking the saucers of potted plants and searching for other hidden sources, and using repellents when outdoors to minimize bites.

Be sure to call us if you are experiencing issues with mosquitoes so we can get our technical staff out to your neighborhood and determine how best to help you!



With sporadic rains and warm, humid weather, checking for standing water and wearing repellents are very important!

Mosquito Eggs: Where it all Begins!

After a female mates and takes a blood meal, she is ready to lay her eggs. Mosquitoes like the Southern house mosquito, the one most likely to be using things like dirty swimming pools in your backyard, lay their eggs in batches clumped together in a "raft". The raft floats on the surface of the water and in a day or two, the tiny larvae pop out and begin swimming and feeding.

Aedes aegypti on the other hand, lay their eggs singly and use what is known as skip oviposition. They look for smaller sources like potted plant saucers and clogged gutters (small, often overlooked places we call cryptic sources) and lay a few eggs just above the water line. Then they move on to other cryptic sources and drop a few more eggs. The eggs can lay dormant for up to a year, and are spread over a large area, making invasive *Aedes* one of the hardest mosquitoes to fight!

Our Technicians are masters at finding these hidden sources though, so call us to set up an inspection and let us do some sleuthing!



Individual eggs laid by *Aedes aegypti*



Newly laid egg raft

Aedes Peak Season

Here in the West Valley, we tend to see *Aedes aegypti* populations peak around August-September.

Historical trends and the current weather conditions mean it is time to protect your home. Start by looking for small sources, anything that can hold even a small amount of water and clean them out. Dump the water and scrub the edges and inside of the containers to dislodge any eggs that may be stuck on it.

Aedes will also seek shelter in garages, so keep the doors closed as often as possible. Also make sure window screens are in good condition with no rips or dents/kinks that could allow mosquitoes to enter the home.

If you spend time on the patio, a box fan placed on the ground and aimed where you are sitting can help disrupt a mosquito's flight. As always, wearing a CDC recommended repellent is paramount!

Using these household tips can help you reduce your chance of being an *Aedes* pin cushion!



Window screens are an important barrier helping keep mosquitoes out.



Closing garage doors completely will help reduce your chances of invasive *Aedes* getting in your home.



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