

- **Install Aeration in Ponds**

Installing an aerator will disturb the water's surface preventing adult mosquitoes from landing to deposit their eggs. Aeration also improves water quality. Aerators should be operated a minimum of 2 hrs. at dusk and dawn May through October.



- **Drain Water Holding Structures Every 7 Days**

Any water holding structure can breed mosquitoes. Common locations include bird baths, fountains, horse troughs, storm drain sumps, trays for potted plants and old tires among many others. Old tires should be removed and properly disposed of and other features should be drained a minimum of once every 7 days. This is the amount of time it usually takes for mosquito larvae to mature into flying adults.



Remove old tires



Drain features every 7 days



- **Rock In Structure**

Filling in a water holding structure with drain rock will eliminate the surface water adult mosquitoes need to land and deposit their eggs.



Pondless Fountain

- **Mosquitofish**

Mosquitofish can be used in some structures but are not always a feasible solution. Many features are too polluted to support mosquitofish. Fish are also unwittingly killed by neighbors who take matters into their own hands by pouring bleach or chlorine into the features. Fish are available for free from the Vector-Borne Diseases Program by calling 775-785-4599.



The staff of the Vector-Borne Diseases Program are available to provide consultation to homeowners and businesses with regard to appropriate measures to reduce the risk and nuisance posed by mosquitoes in the Truckee Meadows.

DISTRICT HEALTH



DEPARTMENT

www.co.washoe.nv.us/health/ehs/vbdp.html

Washoe County
 District Health Department
 Vector-Borne Diseases
 Prevention Program
 1001 E. Ninth Street
 Reno, NV 89502

Ph (775)785-4599
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Neglected Water Features



Breed Disease



DISTRICT HEALTH



DEPARTMENT

Vector-Borne Diseases
 Prevention Program

Neglected Properties Can Spread Disease



Mosquitoes that spread encephalitis viruses such as West Nile are common in Washoe County.

Neglected property features can provide an ideal habitat for these **vector** mosquito species. One neglected property impacts the rest of the community by increasing the likelihood of spreading disease.

It is the property owner's responsibility to prevent his or her property from becoming a public health issue. This brochure identifies some common urban mosquito sources in the Truckee Meadows and solutions to eliminate those sources.



Home Water Features Can Breed Mosquitoes Capable of Transmitting West Nile Virus

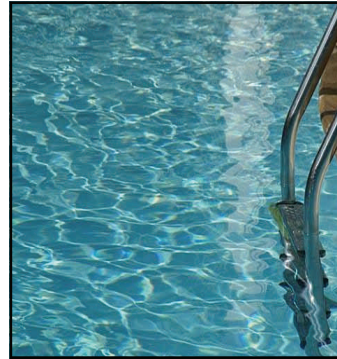
Wetlands and other areas commonly associated with mosquito breeding contain natural predators which feed on mosquito larvae. These predators are usually absent in urban water features. As a result when these features aren't properly maintained they can become a monoculture environment capable of producing an extremely high number of mosquitoes.

- **Filter and Chlorinate**

The best solution for pools & hot tubs

A working filtration system is essential to having a clean and healthy pool. Components of an effective filtration system include: filter, pump, chlorinator, return inlets, skimmer, and main drain.

Note: Simply pouring chlorine or bleach into a pool isn't effective. Chlorine will off gas in a matter of days. Also without a pump the chemicals won't circulate and the pool will still produce mosquitoes.



- **Install a Cover That Prevents Standing Surface Water**

Not all covers are created equal. Mosquitoes can breed in as little as half an inch of water. Floating covers allow for standing surface water that will still provide an area for adult mosquitoes to land and deposit their eggs. A heavy duty cover constructed of a porous woven nylon net can prevent standing surface water but it must be pulled tight as any sagging area will cause water to pond on the surface.



- **Fill in Structure**

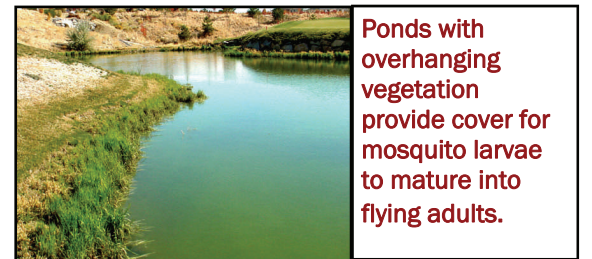
Use sand to fill in a water holding structure if it isn't going to be used for a long period of time or if a permanent solution is desired.



Note: Draining is only a temporary solution. Rainwater or groundwater will eventually collect in the pool causing it to again become an issue. Draining can also cause the sides of a pool to collapse or cause the pool to lift as groundwater exerts its force on the sides and bottom of the pool.

- **Remove Vegetation**

Mosquitoes prefer still stagnant water to land and deposit their eggs. Removing overhanging vegetation and plants such as cattails will increase water movement and decrease the habitat for mosquito larvae. After vegetation has been removed install cobble rock 1 ft above and 1 ft below the waterline to reduce the need for maintenance.



Ponds with overhanging vegetation provide cover for mosquito larvae to mature into flying adults.

Removing cattails reduces cover for mosquito larvae and increases water movement.

