

GRAYSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



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Controlling Mosquito Breeding after Floods and Storms

Where do mosquitos breed?

A mosquito's life cycle has four stages including egg, larva, pupa and adult. All mosquitos must have water to breed and spend their larval and pupa stages in the water. It is important to prevent stagnant water from standing around your home.

How long does it take for mosquitos to hatch after a flood?

Flood water mosquitos lay eggs above the waterline in ditches, ponds, tanks and other places where water collects. The eggs can remain in dry conditions for several months. After floods, heavy rainfall and when the water level arises, the eggs hatch within a couple of days producing swarms of aggressive and hungry mosquitoes. Another wave of mosquitoes occurs later, normally 10 to 14 days after the rain stops. These mosquitoes cause a huge nuisance but rarely cause any illnesses.

How can mosquitos be controlled around your home?

Eliminate any standing water in which mosquitoes breed including cans, buckets, bird baths, old tires, pet water bowls, rain gutters, tall weeds, leaking plumbing, outside faucets, fill in low areas around your house and any places where water may accumulate and become stagnant.

How can people protect themselves from mosquito bites?

Cover as much skin as possible to reduce exposure to mosquito bites and use an approved repellent containing permethrin for extra protection to exposed skin every time you're outdoors. Mosquitoes have the ability to bite through thin clothing. Limit the amount of time you spend outdoors from dusk to dawn. These are times when mosquitoes are likely to carry infections and are most active.

Always follow the four D's for maximum protection while being outdoors

-Drain standing water around your house; **Avoid** being outdoors from **Dusk** to dawn; use insect repellent containing **DEET**; **Dress** by wearing long sleeve shirts and pants to reduce skin exposure.