



City Continues Mosquito Abatement

MOSQUITO HOTLINE

1-800-942-2555

Residents who wish to report above normal mosquito levels and potential breeding areas, or who wish to have their address placed on the adulticiding shut-off list should contact the toll-free Mosquito Hotline at 1-800-942-2555.

The adulticiding shut-off list allows residents to be placed on a list of homes that do not get sprayed during adulticiding treatments.

For More Information Regarding West Nile Virus:

Please visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention web site at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm or the Illinois Department of Health web site at www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/wnv.htm

The City of Crystal Lake is again partnering with Clarke Environmental Mosquito Management during the 2010 mosquito season to monitor potential mosquito breeding sites in the Crystal Lake area and administer pre-hatch larvicid treatments at these sites.

This year's mosquito management efforts are a continuation of a program first implemented in 2001 and based on recommendations by the Ad Hoc Mosquito Abatement Committee. The larvicide treatments are designed to eliminate as many mosquitoes as possible before they develop into adults, minimizing the need for adulticide applications.

In addition to larvicide control efforts, two virus isolation traps are set to collect Culex mosquitoes, which are known to transmit the West Nile Virus. These mosquitoes are collected and sent to an independent laboratory for testing.

In regard to mosquito spraying (adulticiding), the City is divided into zones, in which six (6) light traps are placed to determine density and distribution of mosquito populations.

Targeted adulticiding would take place only after a count of 150 female mosquitoes has been reached in a light trap on two consecutive measurements and the City Council has approved the adulticiding within the zone(s) where mosquito counts meet this requirement.

To help keep residents informed about adulticiding, the local media will be contacted whenever adulticiding will occur. In addition, the City's web site will offer information to residents about the status of the mosquito abatement efforts.

As in past years, in addition to monitoring efforts, the program will focus on decreasing annoyance levels and the risk of transmittal of the West Nile Virus.

Fighting mosquito bites reduces your risk of getting West Nile Virus, along with other diseases that mosquitoes carry. Following are steps to help reduce your risk:

Apply insect repellent to exposed skin when you go outdoors. Always be sure to follow repellent label instructions.

Re-apply repellent if you feel mosquitoes starting to bite.

Wear long sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors. Consider tucking your pants into your socks.

Wear light-colored clothing, since mosquitoes are more attracted to darker colors.

Wear a full-brimmed hat to protect your head and neck or a baseball cap with a fold-out flap to protect the back of your neck.

Cover an infant seat or stroller with mosquito netting for extra protection.

Mosquito-proof your home. Keep mosquitoes outside by fixing or installing window and door screens.

Keep your rain gutters cleared out.

Fill in or drain low spots in your yard.

Keep ditches, drains, and culverts clear of weeds and trash so that water will drain properly.

Drain water from tarps or plastic sheeting covering wood piles, boats, etc.

Empty plastic wading pools at least once a week and store them inside when not in use. Unused backyard swimming pools may also create breeding problems.

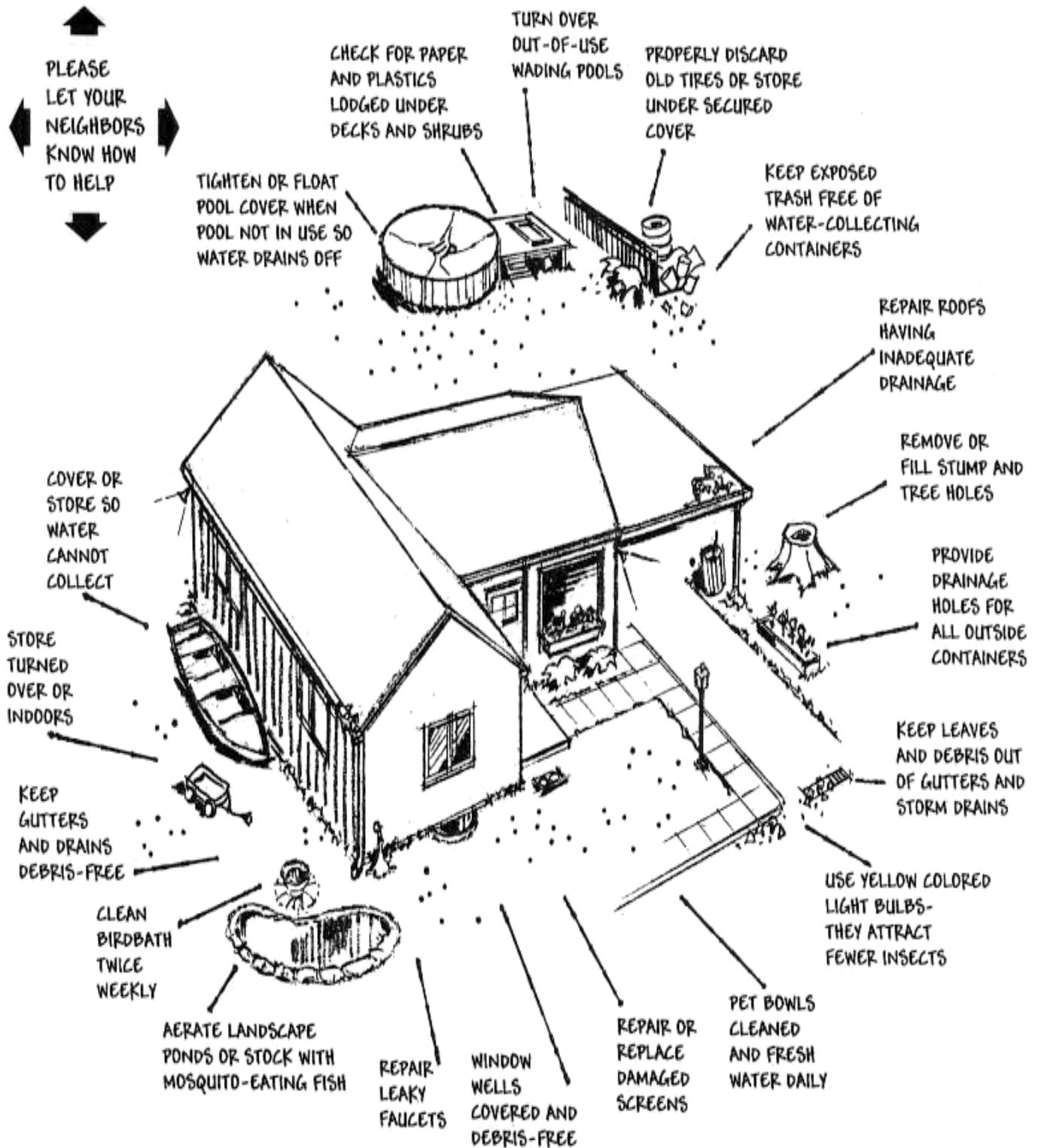
Change bird bath water weekly.

Keep boats/canoes covered or upside down.

Keep grass cut short and shrubbery well-trimmed so that adult mosquitoes will not hide there in the daytime.

Use a fine mesh screen on top of rain barrels so that adult female mosquitoes cannot reach the water surface to lay eggs.

MOSQUITO BITE PROTECTION TIPS



Rendering Courtesy of the McHenry County Defenders

TOLL FREE MOSQUITO HOTLINE: 1-800-942-2555