

Protect yourself

Mosquitoes and you

The City of Red Deer's environmentally sensitive mosquito control program is once again underway.

This program does not completely eliminate mosquito populations, but it helps control and reduce mosquitoes to tolerable levels.

Mosquito bites can occur anytime and anywhere.

Taking personal protective measures is the most effective way to prevent mosquito bites.

For more information on mosquitoes and how to protect yourself, visit us online at www.reddeer.ca.

About the environmentally sensitive mosquito control program (pictures from top to bottom):

1. Mosquito larvae have four growth stages - the second and fourth stages are shown here.
2. An adult female mosquito feeding; blood in its abdomen provides nourishment for eggs.
3. The microbial insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) is used to control mosquito larvae.
4. Staff in personal protective equipment apply Bti to a variety of wet areas that produce mosquito larvae, controlling them before they emerge as adults.



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Protective measures

Protect yourself

Here are a few ways you can reduce your risk of mosquito bites while you enjoy summer activities:

- Reduce outdoor activities and wear long-sleeved shirts and pants at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Use a mosquito repellent containing DEET on skin and clothing, as mosquitoes may bite through fabric. Do not use DEET on children under six months of age. Always read the product label carefully and note extra precautions for use on children.
- Place mosquito netting over baby strollers and other infant carriers when outdoors.
- Place mosquito netting or screens around your porch areas during peak mosquito activity.
- Keep all doors and windows screened and repair any holes in the screens.
- Avoid walking in areas of high humidity, such as creek and river valleys, during peak mosquito activity.

Protect your yard

You can help reduce the mosquito population by eliminating areas where adult females may lay their eggs.

Here are a few suggestions to get you started:

- Cover rain barrels with screens or empty them on a regular basis (at least once a week).
- Remove discarded tires, cans, plastic containers or unused containers that can collect water.
- Clean out rotting leaf debris, which causes water to sit in rain gutters.
- Empty bird baths or other standing water weekly.
- Add a source of moving water to fish ponds or other backyard ponds. This will help prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs in these locations.