



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Harford County
Health Department**

Susan Kelly, LEHS
Health Officer

Russell Moy, MD, MPH
Deputy Health Officer

120 S. Hays Street

Bel Air, MD 21014

410-838-1500

harfordcountyhealth.com

Health Matters

Mosquito Control

What You Should Know About Personal Actions, Surveillance, Mosquito Spraying, Larvicide Application and Filing Complaints.

The Harford County Health Department investigates complaints pertaining to mosquitoes and stagnant water from May 1st through October 31st of each year.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), through its Mosquito Control Program, conducts surveillance, applies larvicide and provides adult mosquito spraying services in Harford County. MDA monitors mosquito-breeding sites to assess the need for larvicide application, as well as, mosquito-spraying services. Mosquito spraying is undertaken to protect public health and for nuisance abatement in participating residential communities.

The use of ultra low volume (ULV) spray to control adult mosquito populations is undertaken as a secondary control measure, as the insecticides are only effective for the twenty minutes or so they remain airborne. There is no residual effect once the insecticide settles on surfaces. Mosquitoes must come into contact with the insecticide while in flight. This “quick knockdown” is considered a temporary control measure.

What actions can a homeowner take to reduce the number of mosquitoes in their community?

The most important thing a homeowner or community can do to reduce the number of mosquitoes in a given area is to eliminate potential breeding sites. Outdoor containers that are capable of holding rainwater provide breeding sites for mosquitoes and are an ideal habitat for mosquito larvae. Homeowners are encouraged to inspect their properties and eliminate standing water during the spring, summer and fall. Objects capable of holding rainwater include:

Birdbaths	Gallon containers	Rain barrels
Boats	Gutters	Tarps
Bottles	Kiddie Pools	Tires
Buckets	Piping (corrugated)	Trash can lids
Cans	Plastic bags	Trash cans (without lids)
Flower or garden pots	Ponds and swimming pools	Wheelbarrows

Water in birdbaths and children’s pools should be replaced every three to four days to prevent mosquito larvae from maturing into adult mosquitoes.

Many homeowners have installed ornamental ponds in their yards. It is important to keep these ponds stocked with fish that eat the mosquito larvae or equipped with aerators to discourage mosquitoes. Circulation of the water, as well as placement of Mosquito Dunks in the pond are equally effective.



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How do I file a complaint about the mosquito population in my community?

MDA responds to service requests from county residents or communities participating in the mosquito-spraying program. MDA will assess properties for potential mosquito breeding habitat and respond to service requests when mosquito populations are in excess of the action threshold.

Contact Information:

Maryland Department of Agriculture
Mosquito Control Program
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-5870

http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/pages/mosquito_control_program_description.aspx

What types of complaints are handled by the Health Department?

Complaints regarding solid waste, garbage, insect and rodent infestations and stagnant water are investigated by the Harford County Health Department.

The Health Department enforces the Code of Harford County as it pertains to property maintenance and insect and rodent control.

§109-5. Property maintenance and control.

- A. Improved and unimproved lots or land parcels. The owner of any improved or unimproved lot or parcel of land shall be responsible for the removal of any menace to public health, welfare or safety arising from the accumulation of garbage, trash or refuse or the presence of stagnant water or waste or any combustible material.

§109-7. Insect and rodent control.

- A. Responsibility of property owners. It shall be the responsibility of all property owners to maintain their property free of such materials as would provide harborage and food sources for rodents. Property owners shall also maintain their property free of such materials as would provide feeding, breeding or harborage areas for insects.
- B. Inspections and control measures. The Department of Health shall have the right to inspect any premises or facility for insect and rodent infestations, harborage, feeding or breeding sites. The property owner shall be responsible for taking those control measures as specified by the Department of Health for the elimination or prevention of insect and rodent infestations, harborage, feeding or breeding sites.

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