5 Easy Ways to Mosquito Proof Your Weekend

Wear Light-L Colored Clothing

During the day, mosquitoes search for food by sight and, in bright sunlight, dark colors stand out to them. Wearing white or light-colored clothing will make you much less attractive to the skeeters. Long sleeves are even better!

Hint:

Avoid perfumed laundry soap or fabric softener - mosquitoes will zero in on those scents. Same advice goes for deodorant, body sprays, or lotion. The less you smell, the more invisible you are!



Adult Mosquito Life Cycle Eggs

Get Rid of Standing Water

Mosquitos love stagnant, standing water and it takes only a few inches of water to breed a whole new crop. In about one week, even a flooded wheel rut can produce 1000 mosquitoes.

Inspect your yard for any standing water or potential waterholding items. Dump them out and make sure things that could hold water such as tires, play buckets, or empty pots

> are turned upside down so they do not fill up again. Look for low-lying areas that may puddle up and try draining them or filling in with more soil. Mosquito larvae cannot survive in circulating water so if you have a bird bath or fountain, keep it moving for at least an hour or so each day.



Mosquitoes cannot fly in a breeze. Even a 1 MPH wind will ground them! That's why they're so active at dawn and dusk when the wind dies down. Calm evening nights also make it easier for them to smell you. For starters, stay indoors during these times and consider using a fan in your sitting area (think Southern front porch ceiling fan). You'll not only stay cool but it creates just enough of a breeze to make it hard to for the pesky insects to fly.



Make your own all-natural bug spray



Infusions are all the rage these days and it works just as well to repel mosquitos! Not only is this chemical free but you probably already have the ingredients. Before spraying, test on a small patch of skin or clothing. You can also make a homemade "mosquito strip" by spraying pieces of cloth and hanging near your outdoor spaces. To keep the odor strong, keep the strips moist.

The "Happy Hour" Repellent

34 cups fresh herb leaves (combine mint, basil, and lavender) Vanilla extract

Strip leaves from the herb branch and crush or grind in a food processor. Add to the vodka and let sit for at least 12 hours. (You're basically making an infused vodka and which will also make some delicious cocktails!) Strain through a fine mesh sieve or cheesecloth and discard the leaves. Pour into a fine mister bottle and add a couple drops of vanilla to deter biting flies and no-see-ums.

Speaking of Happy Hour:

Mosquitoes' favorite beverage is beer! While it may be a summer staple, just one 12 ounce can of beer changes the carbon dioxide you breathe out which attracts the skeeters.

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Plant a naturally repellent, mosquito-proof garden!

Yes, there are many plants that repel mosquitoes and you probably already have some planted in your garden! Our favorites are Lemongrass (which is also a delicious lemony herb used in Thai cooking), Citrosa Geranium (with lovely foliage and a fantastic grower), Lantana (perfect for hot, sunny spots), and herbs such as Lavender or Basil. Fill your patio containers and landscaping areas with these amazing plants and you'll create a mosquito-free zone in all your outdoor spaces.



Did you know?

Many of these plants also attract bees, birds, butterflies, and dragonflies who are mosquito-eating machines!

Want to learn more?

As a bonus, we'd love to share with you our Mosquito Repellent Plants book. Just join our gardening community and newsletter here and we'll send you this FREE full-color garden guide. This great book teaches you how to choose garden plants that repel mosquitoes; how to combine them in your landscape; and much more.



