

WEST NILE VIRUS AND TIRES



WHAT ROLE DO TIRES PLAY IN THE WEST NILE VIRUS RISK?

- Rain water or snow melt that collects in tires provides mosquitoes with suitable places to lay eggs.
- Mosquito species often found in tires, like *Culex tarsalis* and *Culex restuans*, can carry West Nile virus.
- Materials like soil, leaves and grass clippings also collect in tires, and provide food for growing mosquitoes.
- Tires and other man-made containers will hold water long into the summer after natural habitats have dried up.

WHAT CAN I DO TO REDUCE THE RISK?

- Reduce mosquito habitats by eliminating standing water in your yard.
- Prevent water from getting into tires by storing them indoors or by stacking them and covering them with a tarp or shrink wrap, so neither water nor mosquitoes can enter the stack.
- Empty tires filled with water.
- Drill holes in tires to allow water drainage and prevent future water accumulation.
- To reduce resting sites for adult mosquitoes, keep vegetation around tires short.
- Move tires that have been in one place for a long time.
- Remove and recycle old used tires on your property.

PRODUCTS THAT HELP CONTROL MOSQUITOES

Some products can kill mosquito larvae in tires with water, preventing the development of adult mosquitoes.

Bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis (*Bti*, also known as Aquabac™ or Vectobac™) and *Bacillus sphaericus* (also known as Vectolex™) are bacteria that will only kill mosquito larvae.

They do not affect other insects, fish, birds, or mammals. These products are available at most home and garden stores. Follow directions on product labels for use.

For more information about West Nile virus, see: www.gov.mb.ca